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REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF MARKETS
FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

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NOTE

IN THESE REPORTS ALL CONVERSIONS OF FOREIGN PRICES INTO U. S. MONEY HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE PAR VALUE OF THE FOREIGN MONEYS WITHOUT REGARD TO CURRENT EXCHANGE.

GENERAL AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN

An American interested in agriculture, who has been traveling through England and Scotland, furnished the Bureau of Markets, under date of March 23, with a resume of his observations on agricultural conditions. The following is a summary of the information given:

After a thorough investigation it is his opinion that the demand for agricultural products from the United States will be limited, with transportation and financial conditions in our favor as an exporting nation.

He has come to the conclusion that the present supply of food in Great Britain will last until the beginning of the new crop year, on August 1, and, in addition, there is sufficient flour to last until January 1. The constant movement of food for the troops and for the impoverished Continental countries will result, of course, in continual importations of foodstuffs, but these are not due to any scarcity in England and Scotland. At the last of March it appeared that Great Britain needed none of our produce, and will need very little during the rest of the year, unless the exports of foodstuffs to the Continent increase greatly.

The English farmer has fared very well during the war, but the uncertainty which the sudden termination of the conflict precipitated is reflected in his attitude toward the future. The British Government had not yet announced its policy toward agriculture, although it had promised to do so in the near future. Cooperative societies, of which there are many in Great Britain, in conjunction with the labor unions, have requested the Government to continue its control of foodstuffs.

The farmers had considerable wheat on hand, some not threshed and some being threshed. Owing to Government restrictions, wheat was not moving as fast as the producers thought desirable, and some was sold at a sacrifice.

Millers grinding domestic or imported wheat were compelled to mix some imported flour with their product. The flour on hand was largely American, but there was also some from China, Japan, Canada, and Australia. In order to sell bread to the consumer at \$0.05 a pound loaf, the Government is paying a subsidy of between \$250,000 and \$300,000 a year. English business interests are desirous of eliminating this heavy tax by importing Argentine and Australian wheat.

There will be a more pronounced demand for dairy feed, especially corn. Previous to the signing of the armistice, it was thought that offal and dairy feed were very short. However, the close of the war revealed unknown supplies, so that there was no shortage at the time of the communication; neither was there a surplus.

It has been estimated officially that there were 300,000 tons of potatoes in the hands of the producers. This amount represented the surplus over domestic needs. Though large quantities have been exported, many farmers have had heavy losses from rotting.

There is an ample supply of seeds of all kinds at prices higher than those prevailing before the war, though not inconsistent with the increases of other farm products.

Spring planting had been very backward owing to floods. Much winter wheat had been drowned out.

During the war there was probably an increase of 2,500,000 acres under cultivation. Before the war this land was used for grazing purposes, and most of it will be allowed to go to grass again.

Although there was a 10 per cent increase in farming land, and a corresponding decrease in grazing land, cattle and sheep increased in numbers during the war. However, there was a slight decrease in the number of hogs. The British farmer is above all a livestock raiser, and therefore he will pursue the agronomic policy which proved most profitable before the war, and will return to the livestock industry.

When transportation facilities become more nearly normal, there will be a moderate demand for draft horses from the United States.

There seemed to be an apparent desire in British official circles for an international organization to take charge of the world's production of cereals. It was felt that agriculture had been so upset by the war that Government direction is needed.

INTERNATIONAL POULTRY CONFERENCE HELD

The International Poultry Conference held at London, England, from March 11 to 15, was the first international assemblage to discuss the reconstruction of any particular industry. The poultry situation in European countries was investigated thoroughly, and the Governments of the devastated allied countries were requested to state their needs.

The Conference urged the adoption of international standards for poultry and eggs, each exporting country being asked to appoint a delegate to the committee on standardization. Increased international consumption of poultry, particularly eggs, also was recommended. Increased Government support and the greater utilization of women's institutes as a means of furthering the industry were urged.

ITALY REMOVES RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORTS OF WOOL AND OLIVE OIL

Italy has removed the restrictions on the export of wool, wool-mixture waste, and olive oil containing bisulphide preservatives, to all countries except Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and enemy countries.

ARGENTINA'S EXPORTS OF CEREALS FLUCTUATE

The official statistics of the exports of the principal cereals from Argentina for the war years 1916, 1917, and 1918 show considerable fluctuation in the export trade. A slight increase was registered in the exports of wheat from 1916 to 1918; on the other hand, the exports of both corn and oats fell off remarkably. There was a slight reduction in the amount of wheat flour exported. The year 1917 was the low year in the shipment of all grains except corn, and the small quantities exported that year when compared with those of 1916 and 1918 are noteworthy. The following table gives in detail the exports of wheat, flour, corn, and oats for the three years, showing the amounts sent to the principal countries.

Exports of Cereals by Argentina for 1916, 1917, and 1918
(Quantities expressed in tons of 2,204.6 pounds.)

Destination	Wheat			Wheat flour		
	1916	1917	1918	1916	1917	1918
United Kingdom.....	125,172	73,910	363,275	6,763	507	87
France.....	227,522	42,033	166,174	56,414	16,822	2,013
Italy.....	120,227	25,797	40,314	...	...	375
Spain.....	51,442	13,069	91,674	1,364	543	550
Netherlands.....	124,003	722	4,119	171	337	9,500
Portugal.....	15,668	...	6,360	...	...	...
Sweden and Norway..	34,114	55,651	49,299	...	2,075	4,014
For orders*.....	827,997	314,601	911,566	438	1,200	708
United States.....	14,751	...	34,280	67	...	7,040
Africa.....	20,846	115,440	420,452	531	...	6,399
Brazil.....	416,537	163,514	271,980	62,478	57,953	86,742
Paraguay.....	12,400	16,731	10,959	4,465	4,523	6,766
Uruguay.....	301	1,691	89,837	3,413	1,859	4,172
All others.....	153,456	82,114	403,635	1,850	759	5,326
Total.....	2,145,136	910,293	2,865,924	137,964	86,578	133,692
Destination	Corn			Oats		
	1916	1917	1918	1916	1917	1918
United Kingdom.....	401,159	131,799	122,090	145,506	22,606	63,941
France.....	140,153	61,612	26,104	333,790	195,971	44,353
Italy.....	40,058	56,667	13,359	120,122	767	9,755
Spain.....	80,769	16,936	6,734	6,700	6	...
Netherlands.....	296,874	48,301	...	13,201	...	...
Portugal.....	...	...	...	20	...	...
Sweden and Norway..	46,726	25,601	74,647	5,834	...	...
For orders*.....	1,396,736	371,013	135,098	87,950	45,340	47,905
United States.....	31,431	38,256	67,517	805	...	...
Africa.....	...	60,255	12,517	28,279	1,550	210,521
Brazil.....	13,941	67	1,061	20	161	223
Paraguay.....	232	896	2,562	1	10	8
Uruguay.....	34,439	367	10,141	83	5,085	26,667
All others.....	80,936	26,207	45,238	45,687	1,182	95,325
Total.....	2,563,354	838,027	573,168	788,098	272,678	498,898

* Destination unknown.

One of the largest single items in each year has been entered as "For orders; destination unknown." This term is used to designate shipments made under sealed orders, the destination being unknown when the ships sail, and hence, appearing on the customs manifests only as "For orders."

The largest quantity of wheat was exported in 1918, the total, 2,863,924 tons, being an increase of 34 per cent over the amount shipped in 1916 and 215 per cent above the 1917 figure. In 1916 Brazil, France, United Kingdom, and Netherlands, in the order named, were the principal importers of Argentine wheat. In the two other years large amounts were shipped to Africa, with only negligible quantities going to the Netherlands. The rank in 1917 was Brazil, Africa, United Kingdom, Norway and Sweden, France; in 1918 Africa, United Kingdom, Brazil, France. These fluctuations in trade probably were caused largely by the submarine warfare.

Exports of wheat flour reached their height in 1916, when 137,964 tons were shipped, as against 36,578 tons in 1917 and 133,692 tons in 1918, decreases of 37 and 3 per cent, respectively. Brazil and France took the largest quantities of flour in both 1916 and 1917, but in 1918 Brazil was the only importer of any moment.

By far the greatest quantity of corn was exported in 1916, when more than half was shipped "For orders." The exports decreased from 2,563,354 tons in 1916 to 838,027 tons in 1917 and 573,168 tons in 1918, decreases of 67 and 78 per cent, respectively. The United Kingdom, Netherlands, and France were the principal importers of Argentine corn in 1916; United Kingdom, France, Africa, and Italy in 1917; and United Kingdom, Norway and Sweden, and the United States in 1918. Even though the United States ranked third in 1918, only 67,617 metric tons were exported to this country.

Argentina's exports of oats show large decreases in both 1917 and 1918, more than three times as much having been shipped in 1916 as in 1917. The reduction was 65 per cent in 1917 and 36 per cent in 1918. France, the United Kingdom, and Italy, in the order named, took the largest quantities of oats in 1916. France alone imported 72 per cent of the total amount exported by Argentina in 1917, though this was only 59 per cent of the quantity received from Argentina the previous year. In 1918 Africa took by far the largest share, 210,521 tons, or 42 per cent of the total quantity exported. The United Kingdom and France ranked next, with 63,941 and 44,353 tons, respectively.

The small quantity of cereals exported in 1917 as compared with 1916 and 1918 was caused by poor crop yields, which automatically reduced the exportable surplus. The great fluctuations in the trade with the various countries, which one year would take large quantities of cereals and the next year drop out of the trade almost entirely, show the effects of the submarine warfare and lack of tonnage rather than an unstable commerce with those countries. (See also Reports on Foreign Markets No. 2, page 21.)

SCARCITY OF WHEAT IN SOUTH AFRICA

According to the American Vice Consul at Cape Town, Union of South Africa, in a report to the Department of State, dated January 24, 1919, it is estimated that there will be a shortage of 1,500,000 bushels in the quantity of wheat needed for domestic consumption by South Africa. At the beginning of the wheat harvest in December, 1918, the estimated yield of wheat was 8,500,000 bushels, or about 10 per cent below normal, as the annual consumption is approximately 10,000,000 bushels.

In 1913, the year before the world war began, the imports of wheat by the Union of South Africa amounted to 5,349,666 bushels. Since that year, owing to transport difficulties, the imports have decreased, amounting in the first 10 months of 1918 to only 1,040,642 bushels. Meanwhile the acreage of native wheat increased from an average of 747,564 acres during the 4-year period 1913-1916 to 952,966 estimated acres in 1918-19, or an increase of 27 per cent.

According to statistics for 1913-1916, more wheat was imported from Australia than from any other country, excepting the year 1915, when the imports from the United States amounted to 2,075,333 bushels, as compared with 55,000 bushels in 1913 and 77,000 bushels in 1914. Since 1915 the imports from the United States have decreased to negligible quantities. In 1916, the latest year for which statistics are available, Australia regained its former place as leader in the South African wheat trade, with 2,643,666 bushels, its nearest competitor being Argentina, with 608,666 bushels. The following table gives the imports by countries for 1913-1916 and the total imports for 1917 and the first 10 months of 1918:

Imports of Wheat by the Union of South Africa for 1913-1918

Exported from--	: 1913	: 1914	: 1915	: 1916	: 1917	: 1918 Jan.-Oct.
Argentina.....	260,333:	---	924,000:	608,666:	---	---
Australia.....	4,620,000:	3,395,333:	121,000:	2,643,666:	---	---
Canada.....	414,333:	300,666:	333,333:	73,333:	---	---
United States..	55,000:	77,000:	2,075,333:	304,333:	---	---
All others.....	---	---	117,333:	128,333:	---	---
Total.....	5,349,666:	3,772,999:	3,570,999:	3,758,331:	2,594,584:	1,040,642

NORWAY'S IMPORTS OF LEAF TOBACCO INCREASE

During November, 1918, Norway imported 510,400 pounds of leaf tobacco. This amount was an increase of 37 per cent over the imports during the same month in 1917. In November, 1918, the United States exported to Norway 301,321 pounds, or nearly 60 per cent of Norway's total imports that month.

AMERICAN WHEAT USED IN CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

The American Consul at Cartagena, Colombia, reported recently to the Department of State that the flour mill at Cartagena in normal times imports from 40,000 to 50,000 bags of wheat containing 2 bushels each. The following excerpts have been taken from the report:

"American flour recently imported from Panama is selling in bags of 125 pounds at \$17.00. Colombian flour is not obtainable, as none has been brought here owing to the impossibility of shipping it from the interior down the Magdalena River, which owing to exceptional dry spells, is not navigable for freight to this point.

"The "La Heroica" flour mill produces about 2,000 bags of flour monthly in normal times. These bags contain five cotton bags of 25 pounds of flour each.

"It has been the practice of this mill to import wheat from the United States in bags; when empty, they are employed to pack the five cotton bags of 25 pounds each. When the supply of bags is not sufficient to pack all the 25-pound cotton bags, loose bags are imported for this purpose. The duties on the empty wheat sacks are 3 cents per kilo (2.2046 pounds), with surtaxes of 2 and 5 per cent on the total amount of duty.

"The high price of wheat in the United States, to which must be added a duty of 5 cents per kilo, with surtaxes of 2 and 5 per cent on the total amount of duties, renders it impossible to employ American wheat. The duty on flour at present is 10 cents per kilo, with the surtaxes of 2 and 5 per cent on the total amount of duty."

EXPORTATION OF AUSTRALASIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

According to a recent consular report to the Department of State, it is reported that millions of tons of food, wood, wool, leather, tallow, and other commodities in Australia and New Zealand, are awaiting shipment to Great Britain. The British restrictions on imports having been removed, every ship leaving Australasian ports is now completely filled with cargo. Vessels which are taking back Australasian troops return with full cargoes of foodstuffs. In consequence of the more urgent need for wool, butter, and cheese, preference in cargoes is at present being given to them. Wool is being sent in graduated quantities with a view to a sufficiency for the Yorkshire mills without overloading docks and railways. Heretofore shipments were made according to season.

QUOTATION ON GERMAN POTASH

The Department of State is in receipt of a cablegram from the American Minister to Norway, Hon. A. G. Schmedeman, under date of April 12, reporting that potash from Germany is being offered at \$52 per ton of 2,204.6 pounds, delivered at Christiania.

SHIPMENT OF FOODSTUFFS TO GERMANY PERMITTED

The War Trade Board announced on April 24 that the exportation of certain quantities of foodstuffs to Germany will be permitted under license of the Board. This action was taken at the request of the Food Section of the Supreme Economic Council and is in accordance with the terms of the "Brussels Agreement" of March 13-14, 1919, between the Allied and German Governments. Exporters should file their application with the Bureau of Exports of the War Trade Board, Washington, D. C.

This announcement does not apply to the export of foodstuffs to the occupied territory of Germany. Shipment to these provinces are subject to the procedure given in ruling 630 of the War Trade Board, issued on March 6, 1919.

FOOD SITUATION IN GERMANY

The following summary of the general food situation in Germany from a German viewpoint is taken from the "Dusseldorfer Nachrichten" of February 25, 1919:

"The grain deficit of 1919 amounts to 2,000,000 tons (of 2,204.6 pounds). Our home-grown produce would not have been sufficient this year under any circumstances, but the inadequacy has been aggravated by the loss of the larger part of Posen, which used to deliver the ninth part of Germany's entire supply. The reserves of the Imperial Grain Office are at present ample, and the deliveries not unsatisfactory, but by the end of May, or at best the middle of June, we shall be at the end of our bread supplies, unless we can import from foreign parts. The production of prepared foods is for the present satisfactory, and there are considerable reserves available. But we shall need these in order to make up for the shortage of potatoes during the next few months; 10,000 tons will be distributed. In proportion to the number of people, this is very little. The delivery of cattle was good during the last few weeks on account of the shortage of fodder. This will, however, not continue when once the grazing season begins, for the farmer will want to keep the cattle for breeding and working purposes.

"Should it be possible to import meat, this will not be used to increase the ration, but to maintain it. The prospects of our fat supply are very unfavorable, the deliveries having decreased by another third since 1917. The milk supply is in a deplorable state, especially in the Rhineland and Westphalia.

"As regards the potato supply, the loss of Posen is felt most keenly. To supply the inhabitants of the towns 5,943,935 tons are necessary. Of these 3,556,200 tons have been delivered and 1,117,663 tons will probably still arrive. There will, therefore, be a deficit of 1,270,000 tons, the amount necessary for 10 weeks. We shall be at the end of our potato reserves by about the middle of May. Quite a large amount of potatoes have been used for fodder, whereas the distilling industry was reduced as much as possible.

"The area under cultivation with vegetables has increased by 113 per cent. But much has been spoilt, owing to the unfavorable transport accommodation. Dried and pickled vegetables will be available in large quantities, and will form the most important substitutes. The sugar supply is very inadequate, chiefly owing to the transport difficulties and the shortage of coal; the fish supply is quite insufficient.

"The fertilizer factories are minus coal and lime. Their difficulties have been increased by the workmen's strikes in the lignite districts. The loss of the territory on the left side of the Rhine represents for us a loss of 56 per cent of the basic slag which formerly used to be at our disposal.

"In order simply to cover the deficit until the next harvest we shall want an import of 3,500,000 tons of grain, 1,000,000 tons of meat, and 1,000,000 tons of fat. The 5 billion marks (\$1,190,000,000) necessary for their purchase will not be raised unless we seize all foreign securities in Germany and produce large quantities of goods for export."

FOOD SITUATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

According to a report to the Department of State from the American Consul General at London, under date of March 27, a statement was made in Parliament on March 25, 1919, that the stocks held by the Ministry of Food in the United Kingdom at that time were as follows:

	<u>Tons*</u>		<u>Tons*</u>
Meat:		Wheat	235,563
Frozen	42,659	Flour	302,708
Canned	13,500	Tea	45,953
Bacon and hams	25,308		
*1 ton = 2,240 pounds.			

In 1916 the average monthly imports of frozen meat by the United Kingdom amounted to 43,389 tons; bacon and hams 37,382 tons; tea 11.25 tons. In 1918 the average monthly net imports of wheat amounted to 225,197 tons, and of wheat flour to 112,801 tons.

Meat Prices in Scotland

Recently there has been a great improvement in both the quantity and distribution of meats. Consumers find it less difficult to obtain the amounts needed, and at the same time prices have been somewhat reduced. On March 3 the Food Controller issued new maximum wholesale prices for meats in Scotland, as follows:

Beef, home-dressed (whole carcasses)	\$0.273 per pound
Beef, imported:	
Hindquarters .....	.285 per pound
Forequarters .....	.22 per pound
Veal, home-dressed or imported	
(whole carcasses) .....	.215 per pound
Mutton or lamb, home-dressed or imported	
(whole carcasses) .....	.268 per pound
Pork, home-dressed or imported	
(whole carcasses) .....	.323 per pound

Fixed Prices of Beans and Edible Oils in United Kingdom

The British Food Controller decided that, beginning with March 31, 1919, the maximum price of beans should be reduced as follows: Large Lima beans from \$0.162 to \$0.122 per pound; white string beans from \$0.137 to \$0.061; colored string beans from \$0.111 to \$0.061.

On March 3 a new regulation governing maximum prices on edible oils, including cottonseed oil, and fats went into effect. In purchases up to 28 pounds to any one person per week the price is \$0.243 per pint, delivered in packages to be supplied by the purchaser. In quantities above 28 pounds the price is \$19.47 per cwt. (112 pounds), delivered in packages returnable at cost to the seller. These orders relate to purchases not exceeding 1 ton at a time or 5 tons in all in one month to the same person. Sales in larger quantities must be made under license from the Minister of Munitions at prices fixed by him.

On March 31 the Food Controller announced the following prices of vegetable oils per ton of 2,240 pounds: Refined coconut oil, \$313.35; refined American cottonseed oil, \$311.42; refined peanut oil, \$316.46.

United Kingdom Has Released Control of Hams, Bacon, and Lard

On April 1 the British Government suspended its control of the prices and distribution of hams, bacon, and lard in the United Kingdom, including both domestic and imported products. Formerly the prices were fixed by the Government throughout the trade, and distribution was controlled by a rationing system. The removal of the restrictions indicates a decided improvement in the food situation and may be expected to increase consumption substantially.

Scarcity of British Preserves

Up to the time the United States entered the war, considerable fruit preserves were imported from the United Kingdom. The imports amounted to \$230,512 in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1913; \$343,931 in 1914; \$295,060 in 1915; and \$253,136 in 1916. There was a decrease in 1917 to \$61,392 and in 1918 to \$2,249. The supplies of jam and marmalade in the United Kingdom are very low, and exports probably can not be resumed for some months, at least not until the coming fruit crop of the present season has been worked up.

At the present time the demands for domestic consumption are being met with difficulty, the supply of jam especially being short, and the Food Ministry is restricting the sales to the ratio of 25 per cent of jam to 75 per cent of marmalade.

COTTON FOR POLAND

The cotton trade of Poland has been largely based on American and Egyptian cotton.

Prior to the war the Russian Government placed a duty of \$2.06 per pound on cotton imported into Poland, but excepted Caucasian and middle-Asiatic cotton. The preferential arrangement caused large importations from those regions as compared with imports from other localities. But now that the political situation has entirely changed, it may be expected that American cotton will be admitted on an equal tariff basis with cotton from other sections. It is believed, therefore, that a good opportunity will exist for increasing the consumption of American cotton substantially. The establishing of direct trading relations between American cotton exporters and Polish importers would serve materially to improve the cotton trade between the two countries.

Prior to the war Poland imported annually about 159,000 bales from Russia and 195,000 bales from other countries, making the total annual importation 354,000 bales. It is not thought, however, that normal supplies will be available from Russia and Turkey in the near future, owing to the present economic and political conditions and the lack of railway facilities.

There is given below the total exportation of cotton from the United States to Russia in Europe for the years 1914-1918, but it is not possible to segregate the amount of cotton which was allocated to the industries of Poland:

<u>Exports of Cotton to Russia in Europe</u>	
1914.....	94,726 Bales
1915.....	77,231 do
1916.....	160,445 do
1917.....	42,817 do
1918.....	15,000 do

SHIPMENT OF CORN FROM ARGENTINA ARRIVES AT NEW YORK

On April 26 there arrived at New York City from Argentina 24,175 sacks of corn, amounting to 3,240,087 pounds. This shipment is intended for domestic consumption.

Imports of Wool by the United States for March, 1919

Imported from--	: Quantity (pounds):	Value
France.....	111,336	: \$ 66,323
Portugal.....	87,189	: 49,505
Spain.....	97,252	: 29,175
Canada.....	1,526,943	: 1,034,339
Guatemala.....	35,934	: 15,315
Mexico.....	1,171	: 400
Newfoundland and Labrador.....	14,170	: 9,375
Dutch West Indies.....	5,370	: 2,377
Argentina.....	3,328,019	: 1,711,439
Chile.....	554,795	: 252,912
Colombia.....	4,204	: 1,177
Ecuador.....	21,402	: 3,646
Peru.....	243,184	: 116,527
Uruguay.....	3,383,251	: 2,096,062
Venezuela.....	4,004	: 603
China.....	2,565,718	: 1,239,745
Japan.....	55,735	: 42,550
Australia.....	8,847,447	: 4,294,317
British South Africa.....	371,592	: 332,162
Total.....	21,253,816	: 11,268,946

PRICES AT LONDON WOOL AUCTION

The American Consul General at London has transmitted to the Department of State a special report for the Bureau of Markets, under date of April 24, giving the prices received at the wool auction held at London from April 2 to 11. During the sale 77,000 bales were offered, consisting principally of Government, Australian, and New Zealand sorts, together with 1,500 bales of free Capes. Practically all offerings were sold. Good merino greasy combings went 10 per cent higher than the Government schedule, and fine crossbreds sold 15 and 20 per cent higher than the issue prices; low qualities about 5 per cent higher. The Government prices were published in Reports on Foreign Markets No. 3, page 9.

HUNGARIAN WOOL TO BE SENT TO BOHEMIA

An agreement has been concluded between Bohemia and Hungary whereby the latter is to furnish sheep's wool to the former in return for textiles of good quality.

NEED FOR FROZEN MEAT IN FRANCE

According to the "Petit Marseillais" of March 3, 1919, it has been estimated that France will require 400,000 tons of meat during the year, and that, owing to the present lack of cars equipped with freezing plants, according to the French system, it is necessary to increase the quantities of frozen meat. There are 1,000 refrigerator cars in France, but only 30 generating cars, so that but 30 refrigerator trains can be made up at one time. Until more equipment is available, therefore, frozen meat must be imported in greater quantities than heretofore.

In 1916 France imported 55,683 tons of frozen meat. In 1917 the imports had increased to 108,635 tons, of which 19,359 tons, or 17 per cent, came from the United States.

POLAND IN NEED OF VEGETABLE OILS

Prior to the war Poland imported from Russia vegetable oils valued at approximately \$2,000,000 annually. The entire stocks were removed by the Germans during the invasion, and all oil mills destroyed except two which compress copra and castor beans. The oils most needed are linseed, castor, coconut, palm, and palm-kernel.

COMBATING HIGH PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS IN FRANCE

The Minister of Supply of France issued a statement on March 2 in regard to the measures taken to combat the present high prices of foodstuffs. The following excerpts have been taken from the report:

"A striking feature of the present situation is the absence of standard market prices. Frozen meat is being sold in the municipal shops at an average price of \$0.35 per pound, while fresh meat is being sold elsewhere at \$0.70 to \$1.05 without any justification for this great difference. At Charentes butter costs \$0.70 to \$0.79 per pound, and at Paris \$1.66 to \$1.75; and it is not the cost of transport or distribution which causes the difference, but the scarcity of the commodity and the difficulty of transport, as well as the profiteering spirit of the middleman. The aim of the Ministry is not to bring prices down to the level of 1914, but to make living in France no dearer than in other countries. For purposes of comparison we drew up a standard list of rations; 17.6 ounces of bread per day, 3.5 ounces of fresh meat, 1.7 ounces of salted meat, 1.4 ounces of lard, 0.7 ounce of bacon, 0.7 ounce of oil, 17.6 ounces of potatoes, 2.6 ounces of rice, 2.5 ounces of dried vegetables, 0.88 ounce of sugar, 0.88 ounce of condensed milk. These rations give 3,616 Calories and 3.98 ounces of fat, instead of the 3,300 Calories and 2.6 ounces of fat fixed by the Inter-Allied Scientific Commission.

as the necessary daily ration of the normal man. In Paris the above ration would cost \$0.627; in New York, \$0.40; and in London, \$0.337. This state of things must be stopped by the Ministry of Supply, which will limit its activities to the essential foodstuffs, most of which are imported. The Ministry will use its own ships for transport, and will act in conjunction with the Ministry of Public Works for transport in France, whole trainloads being transported at a time. Retail prices will be fixed, allowing for the ordinary retailer's upkeep expenses. The result will be that the above ration will cost in France \$0.374 instead of \$0.627.

"The foodstuffs will be distributed to cooperative societies, to municipal institutions, and to retailers who will guarantee to sell them at the proper prices; but the Ministry will also sell in its own huts, 15 of which will be opened on March 6.

"Arrangements are being made with the popular restaurants that they should be supplied with these foodstuffs on condition that they lower their prices by 30 per cent.

"The following are the foodstuffs which are to be supplied by the Ministry, with the retail prices: Frozen meat (beef, mutton), \$0.307 per pound; ham (salted), \$0.483 per pound; bacon, \$0.44 per pound; lard, \$0.43 per pound; rice, \$0.096 per pound; haricot beans, \$0.11 per pound; oil, \$0.49 per pound; condensed milk, \$0.289 per 14 ounce container."

Trend of Prices of Foodstuffs at Paris

As an indication of the trend of prices of foodstuffs during the war, the Cooperative Society of Hotel Keepers of Paris has compiled the following statistics of the average cost of various commodities for 1914, 1916, 1917, and 1918. (See also "Reports on Foreign Markets No. 2, page 20," for prices of other foodstuffs.)

Comparative Prices of Various Foodstuffs in Paris, 1914, 1916-1918

Commodity	Unit	1914	1916	1917	1918
Beef, fillet...	Pound	\$0.35	\$0.526	\$0.702	\$0.88
Veal, stewing...	do	.088	.29	.369	.51
Sugar.....	do	.066	.14	.158	.184
Jam.....	do	.241	.334	.394	.30
Salt.....	do	.0175	.035	.0526	.088
Coalfish.....	do	.11	.44	.526	.615
Mussels.....	100 lb.	.79	5.26	8.80	10.50

Owing to the low prices at which dried vegetables are being sold, fresh vegetables have become considerably cheaper. Walnuts are plentiful, and there is little sale for them, although they have been offered at \$0.15 per pound. The export of nuts to England and the United States is prohibited.

Exports of Dairy Products, Meats, and Meat Products from
New York City During Week Ending April 26.

DAIRY PRODUCTS*

Destination	Butter (Pounds)	Margarine: (Pounds)	Cheese (Pounds)	Condensed Milk (lb.)	Ev'p'd Milk (lb.)	Eggs (Doz.)
Belgium	175,500	464,694	---	595,157	---	---
France	---	---	---	49,729	---	---
Italy	---	---	---	---	---	---
Scandinavia	---	---	19,040	23,815	---	---
United Kingdom	422,707	308,000	---	3,442,335	1,101,753	117,420
Near East	---	---	---	---	---	---
Central America	32,065	37,088	9,401	99,403	133,237	450
South America	1,504	---	1,914	53,282	1,648	---
West Indies	43,375	18,355	32,157	1,050,402	345,906	---
Africa	60,500	---	13,640	18,540	153,075	---
Miscellaneous	7,375	300	11,400	419,396	78,740	---
Total	747,326	828,937	57,642	5,757,059	1,814,359	117,870
Total since January 1	13,207,094	7,773,035	2,573,574	165,891,937	1,758,560	

MEATS AND MEAT PRODUCTS**

Commodity	Weekly exports:	Total since Jan. 1
Beef:	Pounds	Pounds
Fresh or frozen	2,427,247	59,707,460
Canned and pickled..	644,308	54,013,392
Lamb and mutton	---	430,905
Pork:		
Fresh or frozen	743,138	25,747,308
Dry, salt, and pickled	4,841,549	292,435,117
Bacon, hams, and shoulders	13,900,570	232,483,803
Sausage	542,876	5,335,702
Poultry and game	11,366	1,785,646
Lard and lard com- pounds	31,361,069	203,531,402

* Gross weights given. Manifests pending examination: Belgium 6; France 3; Italy 2; Scandinavia 2; United Kingdom 7; Central America 1; South America 4; West Indies 14; Africa 1; Miscellaneous 21; total 66.

** Gross weights given. Manifests pending examination 66.

Exports of Hay and Grains from New York City
During Week Ending April 25*

Destination	Mani- fests pending examina- tion	Wheat (bu.)	Flour (lb.)	Oats (bu.)	Hay (lb.)	Barley (lb.)	Salt(lb.)
Belgium	6	---	---	---	70,000	1,071,860	371,000
France	2	---	917,560	---	---	---	332,660
Holland	-	---	1,097,161	---	---	---	---
Italy	2	78,258	207,000	---	---	---	---
Portugal	-	290,000	---	---	---	---	---
Russia	-	---	4,311,572	---	---	---	---
Scandinavia..	2	---	---	---	---	---	3,445,100
Switzerland..	-	145,600	---	55,000	---	---	---
United Kingdom**	7	251,378	36,506,176	---	---	---	473,500
West Indies :	14	617,470	2,582,713	---	40,761	---	---
Miscellaneous	27	---	826,808	---	---	---	---
Total	60	388,706	40,388,295	55,000	110,761	1,071,860	4,722,500

* Gross weights given.

**The consignments of flour and wheat listed as having been exported to the United Kingdom last week were usually marked "For orders"; so it may be assumed that the United Kingdom is not the ultimate destination.

REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF MARKETS FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 8, 1919

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NOTE

IN THESE REPORTS ALL CONVERSIONS OF FOREIGN PRICES INTO U. S. MONEY HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE PAR VALUE OF THE FOREIGN MONEYS WITHOUT REGARD TO CURRENT EXCHANGE.

THE FOREIGN WOOL SITUATION

Since the publication of the article entitled "Reduction in British Wool Prices" in Reports on Foreign Markets, No. 3, April 10, page 10, requests have been made for additional information regarding these prices and the general situation in the foreign markets. There is given below the issue or minimum prices for the various grades which were established by the Wool Section of the British War office, effective April 1, 1919, and to remain in force until November 30, 1919.

Issue Prices of Various Grades of Wool Established by Wool Section of British War Office

Quality	Price per pound to November 30, 1919			
	Fleece Wool		Pieces and bellies	
	Superior	Average	Superior	Average
80's	\$1.41	\$1.35	\$1.27	\$1.21
70's warp	1.35	1.29	1.31	1.25
70's	1.32	1.26	1.28	1.22
64's warp	1.32	1.26	1.28	1.22
64's	1.30	1.24	1.26	1.20
60's super	1.30	1.24	1.26	1.20
60's	1.24	1.18	1.20	1.14
58's	1.11	1.05	1.07	1.01
56's .....	.98	.92	.94	.90
50's .....	.89	.83	.85	.81
48's .....	.79	.75	.75	.71
46's .....	.70	.68	.68	.64
44's .....	.67	.65	.65	.61
40's .....	.61	.59	.59	.55
36's .....	.49	.57	.57	.53

Tentative dates have been announced for Government auction sales until the end of the year, as follows:

Dates and Places of British Wool Auctions for 1919 (Quantities have not yet been announced)

Dates	Place	Dates	Place
May 6-23	London	September 2-19 ..	London
May 28	Liverpool	September 24	Liverpool
June 17-July 4 ...	London	October 7-24	London
July 9	Liverpool	October 29	Liverpool
July 15-25	London	November 4-21	London
July 30	Liverpool	November 26	Liverpool
August 27	Liverpool	December	London

The first sale on April 2 to 11 was not open to American buyers, as it was expected that the entire quantity would be absorbed readily by the English trade. Approximately 30,000 bales of Australian wool were listed for this sale, and it is expected that at least 140,000 bales will be cataloged for the sales on May 6 to 23 and May 23.

The estimated imports of wool by the United Kingdom for the first three months of this year were 556,000 bales with 372,000 bales of Australasian wool afloat and due to arrive after March 31. This would make the total arrivals for the first four months of 1919 not less than 928,000 bales, or a monthly average around 232,000 bales. It is estimated also that the stock of wool on hand April 1, including about 49,000 bales of home-grown wools, totaled 977,000 bales, or about 341,030,000 pounds.

The extent of the British trade in wool and the quantities carried in stock under normal conditions are shown in the table given below of the imports, reexports, quantities of foreign, colonial, and domestic wool retained during the first eight months of the years 1913-1918:

Imports, Reexports, and Quantity of Wool Retained in Stock in the United Kingdom During the First Eight Months of the Years 1913-1918
(Quantities given in bales of 330 pounds)

Year	Imports	Average arrivals per month	Reexports	Exports of British home-grown wool	Quantity retained
1913	1,924,325	240,540	639,616	52,935	1,284,709
1914	1,737,140	217,168	859,578	97,816	877,571
1915	2,336,512	292,064	229,566	41,137	2,106,946
1916	1,455,005	181,876	104,715	29,977	1,350,290
1917	1,509,319	188,665	53,367	23,131	1,455,952
1918	927,159	115,895	44,371	5,226	882,783

It will be noted that the arrivals of wool for the first four months of 1919 about equal the normal average monthly quantities imported during the prewar period. These stocks are estimated to be sufficient for the present requirements of Great Britain, France, Belgium, and Italy.

At the present time the British Government restricts the exportation of raw wool, yarns, and fleeced goods, except for such supplies as may be licensed on a rationed basis to the European Allies. Competent British trade authorities take the position that since Government contracts are now about completed and spinners have on hand a fair amount of manufactured goods, the embargo on exports to neutral countries must be lifted on both the raw and manufactured products, if the Government is to avoid loss on the colonial wool purchase.

It is understood that French importers have placed orders with British manufacturers for \$25,000,000 worth of yarn and \$50,000,000 worth of fabrics, but that the French Government so far has failed to grant licenses to import.

Owing to the destruction of the mills in Belgium and France during the war and the inability to replace the spindles and other machinery promptly, there will be a greater demand as compared with the pre-war period, for fabrics than for raw wool.

The possible demand of Germany for wool may be anticipated in view of the fact that prior to the war the German Empire purchased about one-third of the wool exported from Australasia.

Australian Wool

The existing contract between the British Government and the Commonwealth of Australia will terminate on June 30, 1920. The basis of the agreement is that the Australian wool clip has been sold until that date at the flat rate of \$0.31 per pound for greasy wool plus 50 per cent of profits resulting from the sale of wool for civilian purposes. The Australasian clip for 1917-18 amounted to 1,898,029 bales (bale of 330 pounds), and the 1918-19 clip reached 2,074,400 bales, making a total for the two seasons 3,972,429 bales. Several thousand bales of the 1916-17 clip were still in store at the time the armistice was signed.

The stocks of Australian wool on hand in the United Kingdom on January 1, 1919, are given as 300,000 bales. Based on the shipping space allocated to Australian wool, about 150,000 bales of that amount may have arrived after the signing of the armistice. To the amount may be added the arrivals for January, February, and March, 1919, amounting to 556,000 bales, plus 372,000 bales afloat, making the total Australasian wool shipped to the United Kingdom since the signing of the armistice 1,078,000 bales.

South African and Indian Wool

The British Government has made no contracts for South African wool, the clip of 1917-18 being estimated at 500,000 bales for export, 130,000 bales of which were still in store on October 16, 1918, and to which may be added the clip for this year. The Wool Committee for British India has recommended the marketing of the entire stock of India wool through London, but no final action has been taken by the British Government, and, for the present at least, both India and South African wool may be considered as in the open market.

Argentine Wool

Very little activity has been shown in the wool market at Buenos Aires during the past few months. This may be attributed principally to the absence of transport facilities due largely to the harbor strike situation and the uncertainties caused by the advent of peace as it may affect the market. The stocks on hand March 14 amounted to 539,690 bales (bales of 924 pounds), 47,619 bales of which have been sold. The stock on hand March 14 was 21,024 bales less than the stocks at the same

time last year. The total exports for the wool seasons (from October 1 to September 30) of 1915-16, 1916-17, and 1917-18, were as follows:

1915-16	299,207 bales
1916-17	349,622 do
1917-18	288,051 do

The total Argentine clip for 1917-18 was 438,738 bales as against 387,879 bales for the year 1916-17. Exportation for the months of October, November, and December, 1918, and January and February, 1919, totaled 40,477 bales, which would indicate that Argentina has exported only about 12 per cent of its export surplus during the five months of the current wool year. From statistics given below it will be noted that the United States has imported more than 50 per cent of Argentina's total exportation:

Exports of Wool from Argentina from October 1,
1915, to March 1, 1919
 (Quantities given in bales of 924 pounds)

Exported to	:Season :Season :Season :Oct.1,1918 to
	:1915-16:1916-17:1917-18:Mar.1,1919
United States	152,598:225,467:209,528: 23,772
Italy	41,491: 32,286: 21,835: 1,367
France	33,220: 37,505: 23,834: 8,719
Spain	7,002: 3,637: 9,108: 1,328
United Kingdom ...	31,894: 33,988: 6,226: 915
Holland	11,697: 7,517: 150: ...
Norway and Sweden.:	... : ... : ... : 712
Denmark .....	... : ... : ... : 3,276
Brazil .....	... : ... : ... : 73
Uruguay .....	... : ... : ... : 315
Other countries ...	21,305: 9,222: 17,370: ...
Total	299,207:349,622:288,051: 40,477

A large number of ships are returning from the European countries in ballast on account of the shortage of inbound cargo. The same situation prevails with the ships returning from the Orient, resulting in some low ocean freight and fluctuations over a wide range in the cost of transportation.

The world's demand for wool has three alternative sources of supply: first, purchase at British Government auctions; second, purchase at British Government fixed issue prices; third, purchase of free wool from all sources of supplies, except from Australia and New Zealand, at the prices of unrestricted bargaining.

An interesting estimate of the world's wool production and consumption for the ensuing two years was prepared by the Wool Statistical Committee of the British Wool Council, showing the statistical position as of December, 1913. The estimates were as follows:

	Pounds
Present world stock of wool	1,265,000,000
Add production estimate for 1919	2,673,000,000
	<u>3,938,000,000</u>
Less consumption estimate for 1919 ...	2,620,000,000
Estimated stock at end of 1919	1,318,000,000
Add production estimate for 1920	2,700,000,000
	<u>4,018,000,000</u>
Less consumption estimate for 1920 ...	3,094,000,000
Estimated stock at end of 1920	924,000,000

Table from the Economist, Dec. 7, 1918.

BUREAU OF MARKETS TO SEND LIVESTOCK COMMISSIONER TO SOUTH AMERICA

Realizing the rapid development of the livestock industry in various countries of South America and the need for the introduction of pure-bred livestock in order to grade up the herds, the Foreign Marketing Division of the Bureau of Markets has perfected plans for the investigation of the possibilities for pure-bred American stock and to stimulate interest in importations from this country.

Mr. David Harrell, of Austin, Texas, has been appointed as Livestock Commissioner to make these investigations. Until recently he was the representative of the War Trade Board in Spain. Mr. Harrell will sail for Buenos Aires on June 14 and will be accompanied by Mr. H. P. Morgan, of the Bureau of Markets.

Up to five years ago Mr. Harrell was engaged in the livestock business in Texas and Mexico and has had a wide experience in the industry. For some time he was an importer and breeder of pure-bred cattle, hogs, and Angora goats; and his stock won many first prizes in livestock exhibitions of national importance. For several years he was president of the Texas Shorthorn Breeders Association, and did important trade promotion work in Mexico for both the National and the Texas Associations. Until his departure for Spain in 1917 he was a governor of the University of Texas.

IMPORTATION OF POTASH BY SWITZERLAND

According to a report to the Department of State from the American Consul at Geneva, Switzerland, dated March 19, 1919, the "Journal d'Agriculture Suisse" stated that the importation of potash fertilizer from Alsace-Lorraine by Switzerland began on February 1, and that it will be available for the spring planting. Switzerland imports large quantities of commercial fertilizers in normal times.

TRADE OPPORTUNITIES IN BELGIUM

Agent for cold-storage and salted meats at Antwerp. Ask for report 115223a.

Agent for hemp and sisal at Antwerp. Ask for report 115223b.

MARKET IN BULGARIA FOR FOODSTUFFS

According to information from a reliable source, the following agricultural products are in demand in Bulgaria: wheat, flour, rice, olives, and olive oil. These articles at present can be imported only by the Food Controller or with his consent. No exports of any of these foodstuffs were made to Bulgaria by the United States during the years immediately preceding the war.

BULGARIA HAS TOBACCO, GOAT SKINS, AND COCOONS READY FOR EXPORT

Bulgaria has tobacco, raw hides, and silk cocoons ready for export. The following table gives the imports of tobacco and goat skins into the United States from Bulgaria for 1913-1915. The greater part of the imports of silk cocoons have been from the Orient. None have been imported from Bulgaria.

Imports of Leaf Tobacco and Goatskins from Bulgaria
For Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 1913-1915

Article	1913		1914		1915	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	Pounds	Dollars	Pounds	Dollars	Pounds	Dollars
Tobacco,						
leaf ...	243	70	29,242	6,080	24,074	8,090
Goat skins	20,907	9,411	94,463	23,037	68,265	16,710

PRICES OF TOMATOES AND CHEESE IN ITALY

According to a report from the American Consul at Florence, Italy, to the Department of State, under date of March 15, 1919, tomato preserves exported from Parma, f.o.b., sold at \$0.363 to \$0.432 per pound; in barrels at \$0.324 per pound. Reggiano cheese exported from Reggio-Emilia, f.o.b. as follows: Vecchio (1916), \$0.403 per pound; year (1917), \$0.403 per pound.

ORAN

EXPORTED TO UNITED KINGDOM

The Department of State is in receipt of a communication from the British Ambassador at Washington, under date of April 18, 1919, stating that oranges will be admitted into the United Kingdom under a general license. The following table shows the exports of oranges from the United States to the United Kingdom from 1913 to 1917:

Exports of Oranges from United States to United Kingdom
for the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 1913-1917

Exported to :	1913	:	1914	:	1915	:	1916	:	1917
	Boxes :		Boxes :		Boxes :		Boxes :		Boxes
England	13,644:		31,631 :		30,663 :		12,632:		14,787
Scotland	889:		37 :		5,035 :		10,664:		6,329
Ireland .....	...		1 :		...		6:		...
Total	14,833:		31,719 :		35,748 :		23,352:		21,116

BRITISH ABOLISH CONTROL OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

According to a cablegram from the American Consul General at London, England, to the Department of State, under date of April 28, 1919, all control of the sale and distribution of agricultural commodities exercised by the Admiralty, War Office, Ministry of Munitions, and the Board of Trade, either have been abolished or will cease on May 31, with the following exceptions: Egyptian cotton (to be continued until July 31), flax, flaxseed, hay, straw, potash, turpentine substitute, wool, with a limited control of Australian and New Zealand wool.

This announcement does not include restrictions on imports and exports. The Board of Trade stated that the decontrol of the importation of certain cereals recently announced by the Commission of Wheat Supplies had been interpreted wrongly as entailing a revocation of grain prices. As a result of this misunderstanding the Ministry of Food issued a statement that the order which fixed the maximum prices for home-grown cereals had not been revoked.

The maximum price for barley which may be paid by a person licensed to purchase is 70 shillings (\$17.01) per quarter of 48 pounds. All purchases for seed purposes have been unrestricted since January 1, 1919.

Split peas for export have been placed under general license. Other kinds of peas can not be exported.

WITHDRAWAL OF ENEMY TRADING LISTS

The War Trade Board announced on April 28, 1919, the withdrawal of Enemy Trading Lists, with certain exceptions. Importers and exporters should acquaint themselves with the provisions of Ruling No. 711 of the War Trade Board.

WAR TRADE BOARD ISSUES NEW GENERAL IMPORT LICENSE

The War Trade Board has announced that a new general import license, to be known as General Import License PBF No. 37 has been issued, effective April 29, 1919, covering the importation into the United States from all countries except Germany (including the Rhine Provinces), Luxemburg, Hungary, and those parts of Russia under Bolshevik control, of all agricultural commodities except those herein below enumerated:

The following foodstuffs: (a) Sugar, (b) wheat, (c) wheat flour.

General Import License PBF No. 19 (Bureau of Imports Ruling No. 379, W. T. B. R. 417, issued December 19, 1918) covers the importation into the United States of wheat and wheat flour when such wheat and wheat flour are consigned to the United States Food Administration Grain Corporation.

General Import License PBF No. 33 (Bureau of Imports Ruling No. 474, W. T. B. R. No. 629, issued March 1, 1919) covers the importation into the United States of sugar from Cuba when consigned to the United States Sugar Equalization Board.

General Import License PBF No. 35 (Bureau of Imports Ruling No. 481, W. T. B. R. No. 643, issued March 12, 1919) covers the importation into the United States in bond of all commodities which are proposed to be shipped in transit through the United States to any foreign country, provided that the rules and regulations concerning exportations are observed, and provided further that the regulations of customs authorities concerning entries and bonds are complied with.

Individual import licenses covering the importation of the commodities enumerated above as being excluded from the terms of this general import license (PBF No. 37), if issued at all, will be issued under the rules and regulations of the War Trade Board now in force or which may be promulgated thereafter.

It is to be expressly noted that all shipments of commodities which are covered by this new general license may be entered under authority of such license if such shipments arrive in the United States on or after April 29, 1919.

MEXICO SUSPENDS EXPORT DUTY ON HIDES

The Department of State received a cablegram from the American Consul General at Mexico City, under date of April 25, 1919, stating that, according to newspaper reports, the increase in the duties on exports of hides has been suspended until May 10 by a presidential decree of April 25.

FIXED PRICES FOR HIDES IN SWEDEN

The Industrial Commission of Sweden has fixed the following prices for hides when sold by the producers:

Cattle hides, weighing more than 8.8 pounds, fresh, \$0.164 per pound; salted, \$0.138 per pound. Horse hides, fresh or dried, \$5.36 each; salted, \$5.90 each.

DECREASE IN EXPORTS OF CATTLE FROM DENMARK TO GERMANY

According to a report to the Department of State from its Special Assistant at Copenhagen, under date of March 12, the export of cattle from Denmark to Germany almost had ceased during the early part of this year, owing to the elimination by Germany of the war classification, "extra-class." This classification had allowed the importation of many cattle which would have been excluded under normal conditions. The new classification has had a tendency to press the prices downward, and this condition, together with a shortage of cattle on the various markets the first part of the year, reduced the exports.

MEASURES UNDERTAKEN FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF CATTLE INDUSTRY IN ITALY

The American Consul General at Genoa, Italy, has forwarded to the Department of State, under date of March 8, 1919, a report on the measures under consideration for the reconstruction of the cattle industry in Italy. This industry has been damaged seriously both by the war and by an epidemic of the foot-and-mouth disease.

The Permanent Committee of the Zootechnical Council recommended that the regulations regarding the slaughtering of calves be enforced more strictly in the dairying regions. In these localities farmers have stopped feeding whole milk to calves, owing to the high prices received for the milk. The calves were then slaughtered, 250,000 calves being killed clandestinely in 1917 alone. The regulation desired to be enforced prohibits the slaughter of heifer calves under 2-1/2 years old, but permits the killing of bull calves of any age. A similar regulation has produced good results in France since 1915.

According to the report of the Consul, The Cremonese Cooperative Federation of Dairies has offered a price of 100,000 lira (\$19,300) for a cure or a means of prevention of the foot-and-mouth disease. The Zootechnical Committee recommended that the price should be increased as much as possible by the Ministry of Agriculture, suggesting that an initial fund of 200,000 lira (\$38,600) be set aside for the purpose.

Maximum Prices of Livestock to the Producer in the
United Kingdom, May to September, 1919
 (Prices given per 100 pounds; live weight)

Month	Bulls, steers, and heifers				Cows			
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
September	\$13.44	\$17.38	\$16.30	\$11.93	\$17.38	\$15.62	\$13.68	\$9.78
June	13.44	17.38	16.30	11.93	17.38	15.62	13.68	9.78
July	17.80	16.71	15.62	11.93	16.71	14.98	13.10	9.78
August ...	17.15	16.07	14.98	11.93	16.07	14.32	12.38	9.78
September	16.23	15.20	14.10	11.93	15.20	13.48	11.50	9.78

NEW ZEALAND FLOUR MAY BE REDUCED IN PRICE

According to a report, dated March 13, 1919, from the American Consul General at Auckland, New Zealand, to the Department of State, the New Zealand Department of Agriculture purposes to reduce the whole-sale price of wheat flour from \$6.60 to \$6.38 per barrel at the South Island mills in order to appease the bakers, who state that it will be impossible to continue the sale of a 2-pound loaf of bread for \$0.10 and make a profit.

Both the producers and the millers have protested against the proposal, as it would cut into their profits. However, the importation of Australian wheat would allow a reasonable profit to the millers. The farmers state that this action will reduce the wheat production of New Zealand, as they will turn to stock raising.

NATIONAL EXPOSITION IN SOUTH AFRICA IN 1920

According to a report from the American Consul General at Cape Town, South Africa, to the Department of State, under date of February 24, 1919, the Union of South Africa purposes to hold a National Exposition of South African Products and Manufactures at Pretoria during March and April, 1920. The exposition is organized to (1) commemorate the unity and consolidation of the civilizing forces of the world; (2) illustrate in a practical manner the resources of South Africa for producing raw materials; (4) demonstrate the development of South African manufactures; (5) exemplify the advance in South African agriculture and its allied products; (6) provide an epitome of world invention of labor-saving appliances for farms and factories. It is estimated that the exposition will cost \$500,000.

BRAZIL'S EXPORTS INCREASE

Statistics of the exports of sugar, rice, frozen meats, and hides from Brazil for the years 1914-1918 show that the exterior trade of Brazil in these products has increased rapidly. The following comparative table for the first nine months of these years shows that the export of sugar increased 450 per cent; frozen meats, 1,500 per cent; hides 22 per cent; while rice jumped from 2 tons in 1914 to more than 23,000 tons in 1918.

Exports of Various Commodities from Brazil for the First
Nine Months of 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, and 1918
 (Quantities expressed in tons of 2,204.6 pounds)

Year:	Sugar		Rice		Meat (frozen)		Hides	
	Quantity:	Value	Quantity:	Value	Quantity:	Value	Quantity:	Value
	Tons	Dollars	Tons	Dollars	Tons	Dollars	Tons	Dollars
1914:	10,136	492,156	...	...	...	...	26,504	4,266,434
1915:	50,889	4,648,104	2	324	3,358	763,344	28,389	13,608,97
1916:	29,223	5,292,216	35	4,860	26,302	6,986,736	33,064	16,881,69
1917:	88,854	14,641,236	32,600	5,615,244	50,470	14,721,588	27,511	16,561,26
1918:	55,822	13,620,636	23,604	5,014,872	51,416	16,673,364	32,485	16,643,23

Table compiled from Lavoura e Criaco, Dec., 1918

The imports of these commodities by the United States for the fiscal years ended June 30, 1916 and 1917, in tons of 2,240 pounds, are as follows:

Year	Sugar	Rice	Fresh meats	Hides
1916	8,952	---	3,124	31,406
1917	4,922	17	1,421	25,350

FOOD SITUATION IN SWITZERLAND

The Department of State received a report on the food situation in Switzerland from the American Consul at Geneva, under date of March 13, 1919. The report contains translations of articles appearing in two Swiss periodicals from which the following excerpts are taken:

"EDIBLE GREASE.--The market situation does not leave room for hope as regards a reduction of prices for the present.

"Fifteen thousand tons of grease could be purchased by Switzerland in the United States and it is foreseen that other purchases will be made. It seems, also, that the question of tonnage will soon be resolved without too

many difficulties, so that we hope to be able to make the transportation in a relatively short time. Besides, we expect that for the moment the needs in grease of the country will be sufficient up till June.

"EDIBLE OILS.--The cost price of colza, poppy, nut, and hazel nut oils are so high that the producers and manufacturers are unable to strive against the competition of imported oils.

"It goes without saying that the consumer prefers the imported oils to the native ones, if the latter are dearer, as long as the rationing allows him to purchase but a small quantity.

"In order to facilitate the sale of native oils, the 'Centrale Federale' exempts the following oils from the obligation of being sold against a card: colza, poppy, nut, hazel-nut, and beech oils. Therefore, these oils may be sold without fats card and without fixing a maximum price. The prices will be calculated according to the cost of the production and of the manufacture to which will be added a fair gain.

"The sale without card is, however, still under the control of the "Centrale Federale" of greases which is surveying the sale and prices thereof: the Centrale may, at all times, dispose entirely or partially of the existing provisions of oils.

"MILK.--In January, 1919, the milk ration was diminished 13.5% in German Switzerland and 57.5% in French Switzerland. In January, 1918, the milk available for the population was 52.4% of the quantity in January, 1914."

Views of Swiss Food Director

The Federal Food Director of Switzerland issued on March 5 a statement regarding the general food situation in that country of which the following is a summary:

Favorable deliveries of home-grown cereals, due to good yields last year, have improved appreciably the general situation; therefore, the bread ration probably will be increased sooner than expected. Adequate supplies of flour for the period between March and September are in sight. The question of adequate transportation facilities is the most difficult problem. Prices would be forced down by importing larger supplies of cheaper foodstuffs and exporting the dearer ones.

Rations, however, can not be abolished until there is an ample supply of fodder. The production of foodstuffs on a large scale should be continued, especially that of peas and beans. Potatoes are plentiful and the consumer is urged to use them instead of food pastes, rice, corn, etc. It is expected that the supply of corn and oats will be increased considerably during the spring.

The milk ration must remain unaltered until concentrated fodder has become more plentiful and cheaper. One kilogram (2.2 pounds) of oil cake will produce one liter (1.057 quarts) of milk, but the cost is prohibitive.

Meat is scarce, and great economy will be necessary. Fats can not be decontrolled until a 3-months' supply has been stored in the country.

Maximum Prices of Fodder in Switzerland

The Federal Department of Public Economy has fixed the following maximum prices for oil cake and corn products:

Oil cake:		Wholesale	Retail
Unground	100 pounds	\$6.40	\$6.57
Ground	do	6.67	6.85
Corn products	Pound	...	.088

PRICES OF CATTLE FEED IN THE NETHERLANDS

During the month of January, 1919, feedstuffs for cattle sold in the Netherlands at the following official prices per 100 pounds:

American linseed oil cake ...	\$6.83	Mustard-seed cake	\$6.55
Dutch linseed oil cake	6.83	Rape-seed cake	6.55
Fodder beans	5.28	Oats	4.18
Fodder peas	5.28	Barley	4.18
Bean waste	5.28	Government meal	4.00
Pea waste	5.28	Middlings and bran	3.29
Canary seed	5.28	Barley offal	3.29

Beet-root leaves, which before the war were generally plowed under as green manure, were sold as cattle fodder during 1913 as high as \$65 per acre, a price which the beet itself barely brought in normal times.

MAXIMUM PRICES FOR CONDENSED MILK IN NORWAY

The Ministry of Food of Norway has fixed the following maximum prices for condensed milk in cans of 14 ounces:

	American milk	Norwegian milk
Unsweetened	\$0.235	\$0.262
Sweetened .....	.278	.348

Maximum Retail Prices of Various Foodstuffs in the
United Kingdom, April, 1919

Dried fruits:		::Eggs:	
Apples and apple rings....	Bound \$.243::	Fresh or imported fresh dozen:	\$1.335
Aprizots	do .283::	Preserved	do : 1.092
Peaches and nectarines....	do .243::	Small	do : .729
Pears	do .283::	Butter	pound: .606
Plums and prunes	do .283::	Cheese	do : .363
Raisins and muscatel	do .243::	Margarine	do : .243
Sultanas	do .243::	Milk	gallon: .809
Dates	do .12 ::	Rice	pound: .08

MAXIMUM PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS IN PORTUGAL

Restrictions on the internal trade in rice, potatoes, beans, and sugar in Portugal have been removed. Nevertheless the following fixed maximum prices still continue: Rice, \$0.196 per pound; potatoes, \$0.074 per pound; beans, \$0.167 per pound; sugar, crystallized, wholesale, \$0.236 per pound. The price of milk has been reduced from \$0.245 to \$0.204 per quart.

Exports of Dairy Products from New York City During
Week Ending May 3*

(Compiled by Bureau of Markets at New York Custom House)

Destination	Butter (Pounds)	Oleo- margarine (Pounds)	Cheese (Pounds)	Condensed Milk (lb.)	Ev'p'd Milk (lb.)	Eggs (Doz.)
Belgium	100:	135,030:	71,800:	29,000:	----	----
France	36,932:	277,737:	1,743:	5,157,374:	1,545,518:	----
Italy	----	----	----	----	----	----
Scandinavia ..	614,140:	225,000:	272,350:	8,650:	197,600:	12,500
United Kingdom ..	571,565:	----	----	10,560,044:	10,746,376:	108,000
Near East ..	----	----	----	----	----	----
Central America ..	3,050:	----	1,480:	13,665:	----	----
South America:	3,321:	----	1,911:	74,422:	----	----
West Indies ..	117,629:	4,512:	116,448:	779,987:	120,455:	510
Africa	----	----	4,628:	74,004:	6,500:	----
Miscellaneous:	----	9,470:	5,493:	1,682,564:	292,738:	----
Total	1,346,737:	651,749:	475,853:	18,379,710:	12,909,181:	121,010
Total since January 1 ..	14,553,331:	8,424,784:	3,049,427:	197,130,828:	1,879,670:	

* Gross weights given. Manifests pending examination: Belgium 1; France 7; Italy 3; United Kingdom 6; South America 2; West Indies 7; Miscellaneous 18; total 44.

Exports of Meats, Meat Products, Hay, and Grain from
New York City During Week Ending May 3

MEATS AND MEAT PRODUCTS*

Commodity	Weekly exports:	Total since Jan. 1
	Pounds	Pounds
Beef:		
Fresh or frozen	11,350,408	71,057,868
Canned and pickled..	1,897,755	55,911,147
Lamb and mutton	3,765	434,670
Pork:		
Fresh or frozen	332,169	26,129,477
Dry, salt, and		
pickled	6,269,915	298,705,032
Bacon, hams, and		
shoulders	12,521,971	245,005,774
Sausage	725,284	6,560,986
Poultry and game	1,653,767	3,439,413
Lard and lard com-		
pounds	14,348,465	217,873,867

HAY AND GRAINS**

	Wheat	Flour	Oats	Barley	Malt	Corn
Destination	(bu.)	(lb.)	(bu.)	(bu.)	(lb.)	(bu.)
Belgium	650,291	560,000	355,642	144,644	1,553,236	----
France	---	1,244,880	---	---	---	----
Holland	134,400	---	---	---	---	----
Italy	98,492	193,200	---	---	---	----
Scandinavia..	---	---	---	---	650,083	----
Switzerland .	115,733	---	23,000	---	---	----
United						
Kingdom	343,024	60,237,810	---	202,454	---	34,170
Central						
America	---	69,000	---	---	---	----
South						
America		521,675	---	---	28,050	----
West Indies :	---	1,154,782	19,948	---	---	----
Miscellaneous:	226,000	41,246,844	---	---	---	----
Total	1,567,940	105,228,191	403,590	347,098	2,231,369	34,170

* Gross Weights Given. Manifests pending examination 44.

**Gross Weights Given. Manifests pending examination: Belgium 7; France 7; Italy 3; United Kingdom 6; South America 2; West Indies 7; Miscellaneous 12; total 50.

REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF MARKETS FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 15, 1919

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NOTE

IN THESE REPORTS ALL CONVERSIONS OF FOREIGN PRICES INTO U. S. MONEY HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE PAR VALUE OF THE FOREIGN MONEYS WITHOUT REGARD TO CURRENT EXCHANGE.

THE FOREIGN TRADE IN RICE

A noteworthy development of the war was the exterior trade of the United States in rice. The shipping situation favored America as an intermediate market for oriental rice. The influence of the war on the prewar trade and the development of new trade are shown clearly in the following table. The total exports of domestic rice by this country for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1913, amounted to only 24,801,280 pounds as compared with 181,371,560 pounds in 1917, and increased in 1918 to 196,363,263 pounds, or 692 per cent over the exports of the prewar period. Exports for the nine months ending March 31, 1919, amounted to 110,441,518 pounds, an average monthly decrease of 5,625,043 pounds as compared with the previous year.

Exports of Rice in (Pounds) by the United States, Showing Development of Trade for Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 1913, 1917, 1918, and First 9 Months of Fiscal Year 1919

Exported to—	1913	1917	1918	July 1, 1918— Mar. 31, 1919
Belgium	50	43,100	716,856	66,554,556
Denmark	--	389,000	30,040	205,000
France	90,566	45,773,745	35,066,423	18,960,000
Netherlands	8,554,560	--	--	12,990,685
Greece	2,240	451,460	1,000	80,000
Italy	--	372,000	32,259,976	1,510,604
Norway	--	321,936	211,990	221,044
Sweden	--	365,752	--	800
United Kingdom...	489,211	2,083,698	73,523,435	91,060
Russia	--	50	999,538	565,001
Bermuda	2,032	349,567	103,237	21,000
British Honduras.	79,933	1,173,883	1,049,415	265,410
Honduras	1,083,045	2,601,727	1,408,018	307,040
Nicaragua	312,911	1,529,100	799,741	137,750
Panama	170,111	1,959,561	525,532	37,000
Salvador	400	40,000	--	--
Jamaica	28,208	2,247,910	206,754	44,810
Trinidad & Tobago	200	1,204,589	53,124	--
Cuba	669,179	21,900,928	19,340,287	4,121,156
Haiti	109,055	895,596	167,064	57,205
Dominican Republic	54,290	15,476,048	4,652,694	330,000
Danish West Indies	450	136,705	312,459	111,000
French West Indies	1,067	1,464,544	2,182,292	100,100
Argentina	7,619,152	36,887,737	780,330	250,000
Bolivia	200	234,100	8,200	662,400
Chili	--	9,407,693	7,905,430	36,337
Colombia	45,740	3,335,644	408,890	100,000
Ecuador	--	709,379	--	--
Peru	--	493,912	957,465	110,000
Venezuela	42,650	9,411,231	1,047,008	32,500
British West Africa	--	1,315,058	3,484,311	3,000
French Africa....	--	411,333	546,020	20,100
All others	4,946,030	17,144,494	7,510,589	2,792,360
Total	24,801,280	181,371,560	196,363,263	110,861,054

The total reexportation of foreign rice for the year 1918 amounted to 92,301,857 pounds. This does not include foreign rice which may have passed through the United States "in bond in transit" destined to foreign countries.

While it may not be possible to hold a large portion of the intermediate trade in oriental rice, still it is believed that a considerable export trade may be retained both in domestic and foreign rice.

The United States Shipping Board has furnished the Bureau of Markets with the following freight rates on rice to countries where trade contacts have been established:

Ocean Freight Rates on Rice in Bags

Rates to--	From North Atlantic ports	From South Atlantic ports	From Gulf ports
United Kingdom ports	\$1 per 100 pounds or \$0.50 per cubic foot	\$1.075 per 100 pounds or \$0.54 per cubic foot	\$1.15 per 100 lbs. or \$0.58 per cu.ft.
AntwerpRot- terdam**Havre,	\$1.25 per 100 pounds or \$0.65 per cubic foot	\$1.33 per 100 pounds or \$0.70 per cubic foot	\$1.40 per 100 lbs. or \$0.73 per cu.ft.
*Bordeaux			
**Marseilles,	\$1.60 per 100 pounds or \$0.85 per cubic foot	\$1.68 per 100 pounds or \$0.90 per cubic foot	\$1.75 per 100 lbs. or \$0.93 per cu.ft.
CetteGenoa,			
NaplesBilbao			
*Venice,*Tri- este,*Fiume	\$65 per ton	.....	.....
**Barcelona,	\$1.85 per 100 pounds or	\$1.93 per 100 pounds or	\$2.00 per 100 lbs.
**Valencia . . .	\$0.95 per cubic foot	\$1.00 per cubic foot	or \$1.08 per cu.ft.
*Piraeus,	\$50 per ton of 2,240	.....	.....
*Patras	pounds or 40 cubic feet	.....	.....
*Salonica . . .	\$55 per ton	.....	.....
*Buenos Aires	\$25 per ton	\$25 per ton	\$25 per ton
**Valparaiso . .	\$1.16 per 100 pounds or \$0.65 per cubic foot	\$1.16 per 100 pounds or \$0.65 per cubic foot	\$1.16 per 100 lbs. or \$0.65 per cu.ft.
Cartagena . . .	\$0.45 per 100 pounds	.....	.....
**Guayaquil,	\$1.16 per 100 pounds or	\$1.16 per 100 pounds or	\$1.16 per 100 lbs.
**Callao	\$0.65 per cubic foot	\$0.65 per cubic foot	or \$0.65 per cu ft.
Rates to--	North Atlantic ports	Rates to--	North Atlantic ports
*North Africa .	\$50 per ton	*Delagoa Bay	\$29.40 per ton
*Dakar, *Ivory Coast,*Dahomey	\$20 per ton	*Beira	\$30.30 per ton
*Sherbro,*Gold Coast, *Calabar	\$22 per ton	Belize	\$0.75 per 100 lbs.
*Duala south to Longo, incl. . .	\$28.50 per ton	Barrios	\$0.555 per 100 lbs.
*Cape Town . . .	\$27 per ton	Colon	\$0.40 per 100 lbs.
*Port Natal . . .	\$28.80 per ton	Kingston	\$0.42 per 100 lbs.
		Habana	\$0.575 per 100 lbs.
		Santo Domingo	\$0.60 per 100 lbs.
		Haiti	\$0.75 per 100 lbs.

*Per ton of 40 cubic feet or 2,240 pounds, ship's option.

**Weight or measurement, ship's option.

The statistics given below show the total import trade and indicate the changes which have taken place in the principal foreign markets from which rice has been received. The endeavors of Japanese merchants to control the rice trade of the Orient may be indicated by the large increase of exports from Japan to the United States during the war and in particular for the year 1918, which amounted to 43 per cent of the total supply received from the Far East. It is believed also that a considerable quantity of the rice imported from Hongkong was controlled by Japanese merchants.

Imports of Rice by the United States for the Fiscal
Years Ended June 30, 1914 - 1918

Year:	Imported from -					Total U.S. Imports
	China	Hongkong	Japan	India	Europe	
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
1914:	37,043,268	7,992,556	53,269,330	870,235	181,296,832	290,194,317
1915:	72,445,991	11,906,630	90,570,074	737,521	82,707,928	277,191,473
1916:	70,598,431	53,534,805	101,231,636	297,550	20,364,938	264,324,000
1917:	61,303,889	49,310,645	35,999,632	10,538,349	824,011	216,048,256
1918:	32,139,954	116,138,064	192,545,479	7,930,611	8,644	456,058,692

Japanese Rice Market

Immediately after the signing of the armistice, according to the American Consul General at Hongkong, Japanese merchants, in anticipation of increased shipping to Europe and because of the embargo against the export of rice from India and Burma, bought all of the available supply then made heavy shipments to Vancouver, to await the lifting of the American embargo, or placed it in warehouses, with the view of selling to any part of the world as opportunity or special demands might dictate. Stocks became so low in Hongkong as to threaten the necessary requirements for consumption in that part of China depending on Hongkong. At the same time (November, 1918) the price of rice in the Japanese domestic market advanced to \$3.50 per bushel, at which time the rice riots occurred. According to an announcement made by the Japanese Director of Agriculture the rice production of Japan for the past five years was as follows:

1914 . . .	291,870,720 bushels	1917 . . .	276,828,160 bushels
1915 . . .	281,722,880 do	1918 . . .	280,006,135 do
1916 . . .	299,223,040 do		

Based on the foregoing statistics, it has been estimated to be necessary for Japan to import about 30,746,268 bushels during 1919 to cover the deficit.

The Hongkong Rice Market

While imports by Hongkong for the year 1914 show a large increase as compared with the prewar period, according to a recent report from

the American Consul General at Hongkong, the promise for large supplies for the 1919 trade are not favorable. The close of the year witnessed a tightening of the market all over the East, after the English Government had prohibited exports from Burma and India, and this situation was augmented by the signing of the armistice, which gave early prospect of shipping direct from Indo-China to France and Europe.

The close of the year found the Hongkong market short of stocks and the price advanced to about 50 per cent above normal. The Saigon crop is estimated to be no more than 60 per cent of the average production, and there is an increasing probability that the United States and other consuming countries will make direct shipments from the producing centers rather than through Hongkong. The India Trade Journal estimates the yield in Cochin-China for 1919, at 1,279,000 tons, as compared with 1,869,000 tons for the previous season.

Rice Situation in India

The agricultural season of India has been unfavorable, causing great anxiety on the part of the Government through fear of famine conditions and resulting in the prohibition of exportations of rice and wheat. Arrangements have been made by the Government to import 500,000 tons of wheat from Australia before the end of July. Exports of rice from Burma have been restricted, thus causing the foreign markets which usually draw their supplies of rice from India to turn elsewhere. The final official estimate of the rice crop for all India for the season 1918-19, including the summer, fall, and winter crops, amount to 23,822,900 tons as compared with 36,249,000 tons for the year 1917-18, or a decrease of 34.3 per cent. The following table will show the effect upon prices:

Average Price Per 100 Pounds of Rice at Calcutta and Rangoon, February 1915-1919

Port	:	Kind	:	1919:	1918:	1917:	1916:	1915
Calcutta . .	:	Ballum No. 1	:	\$2.79:	\$1.95:	\$2.51:	\$2.51:	\$2.62
Rangoon . .	:	White . . .	:	1.50:	1.18:	1.28:	1.20:	1.27

The freight rate from Rangoon to Calcutta and from Calcutta to ports of the United Kingdom during February, 1919, and for the same month of the preceding four years were as follows:

Comparison of Ocean Freight Rates on Rice between Rangoon, Calcutta, and the United Kingdom, per ton of 2,240 Pounds, February 1915-1919

Ports	:	1919	:	1918	:	1917	:	1916	:	1915
From Rangoon to Calcutta . .	:	\$6.49	:	\$7.46	:	\$4.05	:	\$5.68	:	\$3.24
From Calcutta to United Kingdom	:	21.90	:	77.86	:	70.56	:	41.61	:	17.52

For a review of the rice situation in Siam, see "Reports on Foreign Markets for Agricultural Products" No. 3, page 10.

Ocean freight rates from India and the Orient fluctuate considerably owing to the limited amount of inbound cargo tonnage compared with the outbound for the United States. Importers of commodities which move in large quantities from the Far East, such as manganese ore, jute, and rice might do well to cooperate in the booking of their cargoes, which may be made to

approach a constant flow of cargo tonnage so necessary to the maintenance of a regular steamship service. Even at a low rate of freight, this class of cargo may be attractive to the steamship carrier as the basis upon which a profitable traffic may be built of lighter and smaller cargo lots. The solution of shipping of rice from the Orient would appear to be an important factor in retaining our present status as an intermediate market for oriental products.

SECOND BRITISH WOOL AUCTION*

According to special reports from the American Consul General at London, under dates of May 7 and 8, 1919, obtained for the Bureau of Markets by the Department of State, the total offerings on the opening day, May 6, of the British colonial wool auction amounted to 120,000 bales. The sale will continue for 14 days. Buyers from the United Kingdom, France, and Belgium were represented.

The offerings of Merino wools consisted chiefly of carbonized lots, which sold at irregular rates. The finer grades of crossbred wools sold 5 per cent higher than at the closing of the April sales. The prices of medium grades remained unchanged, while the coarser wools, Capes, and short-woolled greasies were slightly lower. On the 6th the catalog listed 2,708 bales from New South Wales; 1,725 from Queensland; 365 from Victoria; 721 from West Australia; 1,665 from New Zealand; and 952 bales of Cape wools.

On the 7th catalogs representing 3,135 bales were submitted. Some attractive clips of Victorian greasy Merinos marked F in diamond mount sturgeon brought the phenomenal price of 60 d. (\$1.20) per pound. Other marks brought correspondingly high prices. Scoured Merinos ranged up to 53 and 54 d. (\$1.06 - \$1.08). The finest scoured crossbred wools from New Zealand reached 72 d. (\$1.44) per pound for light conditions and 70 d. (\$1.40) per pound for pieces.

*See note on page 1 regarding conversions of foreign money.

SCARCITY OF CATTLE AND HIDES DECREASES EXPORTS FROM CIUDAD JUAREZ, MEXICO

According to a report to the Department of State, under date of April 15, 1919, from the American Consul at Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, the total value of declared exports at that consulate for the quarter ended March 31, 1919, were \$127,047, as compared with \$1,129,616 for a like period in 1918. This decrease was due partly to the scarcity of cattle and cattle hides.

AGRICULTURAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR UNITED KINGDOM

Mr. Edward A. Foley, of San Francisco, California, has been appointed Agricultural Trade Commissioner to represent the Bureau of Markets in the United Kingdom. He will sail for his new post on May 24.

Mr. Foley was graduated in 1905 from the law school of the University of California. For four years he was assistant to the Chief Counsellor of the Oriental and the Pacific Mail Steamship Companies, handling questions on the imports and exports of food products. Mr. Foley then became an attorney for the Italian Consulate at San Francisco, his

experience there covering the importation and marketing of Italian products and the exportation of American products to Italy. Mr. Foley also was attorney for exporters of dried fruits, flour, and wines to the Far East.

Upon the entrance of the United States into the war, he came to Washington as Solicitor of the Enforcement Division of the Food Administration and was in charge of the enforcement of regulations governing perishable fruits and produce. During his service with the Food Administration Mr. Foley investigated the methods of handling and marketing of foodstuffs, including canned goods, and also of cotton seed products. He was a representative of the Food Administration in joint hearings of the Federal Trade Commission and the Food Administration, and also represented that body in joint hearings with the Shipping Board Emergency Fleet Corporation in investigations relative to profiteering in foodstuffs by ship chandlers.

As Agricultural Trade Commissioner Mr. Foley will investigate conditions in the United Kingdom and will study the marketing and distribution of farm products with a view to the development and improvement of the foreign trade in American agricultural products.

MODIFICATION OF ARGENTINA'S EXPORT DUTIES*

The American Commercial Attache at Buenos Aires cabled to the Department of Commerce, under date of May 5, 1919, the following modifications in the export duties of agricultural products in Argentina for May. All duties are payable in Argentine gold. The rates are given per metric ton of 2,204.6 pounds, except for goat skins. Salted hides, \$16.69; bulk linseed, \$1.80; tallow, \$10.07; quebracho extract, \$6.21; grease wool skins, \$30.16; goat skins, \$0.079 per kilo (2.2046 pounds); barley, free of duty.

*See note on page 1 regarding conversions of foreign money.

SPECIAL EXPORT LICENSE FOR SHIPMENTS OF NONCONSERVED PRODUCTS

The War Trade Board has announced that Special Export License RAC-77 authorizes the exportation by freight or express without individual licenses, to the following countries of all agricultural commodities, except those included in the Export Conservation List:

(A) Any country in the Western Hemisphere (excluding the possessions of England and France, to which shipments may now be made under Special Export License RAC-63).

(B) Any country in Africa (excluding the colonies, possessions, and protectorates of Great Britain, France, Italy, and Belgium, to which shipments may now be made under Special Export License RAC-63).

(C) Any country in Asia (excluding Japan and the colonies, possessions, and protectorates of Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, and Japan, to which shipments may now be made under Special Export License RAC-63) and excluding Turkey in Asia and Arabia.

(D) The following countries in Europe: Spain; Portugal.

REGULATIONS COVERING IN-TRANSIT SHIPMENTS

The War Trade Board has announced that Special Export License RAC-42 issued through the Customs Service authorizes the exportation of shipments of all commodities conveyed in transit through the territory or via a port of the United States when originating in any foreign country and destined to any other country of the world, provided that no shipment destined to Europe shall be authorized under this license unless such shipment is consigned to Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, Greece, Spain, or Portugal, or their possessions in Europe.

Further details of this regulation are given in W. T. B. R. 714, copies of which may be obtained from the War Trade Board, Washington, D. C.

ITALIAN IMPORTER IN MARKET FOR RAW COTTON

Raw cotton importer, Bologna, Italy. Ask for Report No. 115689.

TRADE OPPORTUNITIES IN BELGIUM AND HOLLAND

Agent for food products, Antwerp. Ask for Report No. 115600.

NEW MAXIMUM PRICES FOR NUTS AND OILS IN UNITED KINGDOM*

According to a cablegram from the American Consul General at London to the Department of State, dated May 2, 1919, the following are new maximum prices fixed by the British Food Controller for copra, cotton seeds, peanuts, palm kernels, and the resultant oils per ton in quantities greater than 1 ton:

				<u>Refined</u>	
				Fine	Common
				deodorized	edible
		<u>Crude</u>			
Copra. . . .	: \$223.36	Cocunut oil . . .	: \$340.66	\$399.05	....
Cotton seed .	: 92.46	Cottonseed oil . .	: 291.99	364.99**	\$545.52**
Peanuts . . .	: 155.72	Peanut oil	: 379.59	437.99	....
Palm kernels	: 126.53	Palm-kernel oil :	253.06	311.46	....

* See note on page 1 regarding conversions of foreign money.

** Home-produced.

BRITISH EGG AND POULTRY MARKET, MAY 5

At London the wholesale prices for eggs on May 5 were as follows, per 120:

English	\$7.91-\$8.14	American	\$7.05
Irish	7.29- 7.78	Danish	7.55-\$8.14

The demand for eggs for export from the United States to the United Kingdom is increasing, and large quantities have been contract-

ed for. Although Canada has eggs for export, the lack of ocean tonnage precludes the shipment of very large amounts.

There is considerable demand for poultry by the United Kingdom, and Canada has exhausted its exportable surplus.

MARKET IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR FOODSTUFFS

According to a report from the American Consul at Florence, Italy, to the Department of State, under date of February 17, 1919, there is a demand in Durban, South Africa, for macaroni, vermicelli, pastes, cooking oils, particularly olive oil, tinned sardines, and other tinned fish.

LARGE SHIPMENT OF ARGENTINE CORN ARRIVES AT NEW YORK

On May 10 and 12 three large shipments of corn for domestic use arrived at New York from Argentina. These consignments amounted to 653,454 bushels (277,599 sacks containing 36,593,400 pounds).

SWITZERLAND NEEDS AMERICAN GOODS

According to a report received by the Department of State, under date of March 18, 1919, from the American Consul at Geneva, Switzerland, there is a need in that country for the following American agricultural commodities:

"Raw materials of all kinds; foods of all kinds, except sardines and a few such specialties of which there is a stock on hand; and more particularly cotton, wool; rubber; leaf tobacco; fertilizers; linseed meal (large demand). Switzerland does not need milk and dairy products, although for the time being these products are rare.

"The Swiss market is undergoing a period of readjustment at the present time. Germany sold over \$125,000,000 worth of goods of all kinds to Switzerland annually before the war, and there will undoubtedly be a market here for American goods in the future. It is only a question of furnishing credit terms, reasonable prices, assortments, etc., which will be attractive to the Swiss buyer."

REPORTED DECREASE OF BEET SUGAR IN GERMANY

A report from Magdeburg, Germany, to the "Frankfurter Zeitung" stated that the total production of German beet-sugar factories from the 1913-1919 crop amounted to approximately 1,563,000 tons (2,000) of raw sugar. According to the report, this is a decline of 280,000 short tons, and was said to have been caused by a lack of coal, reduced acreage, and decreased sugar content of the beet. The beet sugar production of Germany for 1914-1915 was 2,755,750 short tons, and for 1915 - 1917 it amounted to 1,895,956 tons.

It was reported that sugar beets of the 1918-19 crop brought \$0.539 per 100 pounds. This year the prices asked for the beet root vary from \$0.86 to \$1.079.

With an average production of 2,458,383 tons of beet sugar for the 5-year prewar period 1909-1913, Germany exported an average of 873.114 tons, leaving for domestic consumption 2,457,509.89 short tons. If the above estimate of the 1918-1919 supply is approximately correct, there will be a deficiency of 889,509 tons. Unless rationing is continued, therefore, it is probable that Germany will become a sugar importing nation, instead of carrying on a large export trade.

CORRECTION*

On page 11 of Reports of Foreign Markets No. 6 the statement that the Russian Government placed "a duty of \$2.06 per pound" on cotton imported into Poland should have read "a duty of 5 rubles and 25 kopecks per pood. (36.113 pounds), or \$0.075 per pound."

* See note on page 1 regarding conversions of foreign money.

SEED SITUATION IN BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, DENMARK, AND NORTHERN ITALY

The results of the Department's investigation of the seed situation in the United Kingdom, France, and Italy appeared in Reports on Foreign Markets for Agricultural Products No. 2, April 3, 1919. One of the investigators, Dr. A. J. Pieters, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, has completed his survey of the seed situation in Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, and northern Italy, and has returned to Washington. A summary of Dr. Pieter's observations is given below.

The Conditions in Belgium

The supply of vegetable seeds is said to be sufficient in most places to meet the present needs. Should there be any scarcity, ample supplies probably can be obtained from the large stocks of France or the Netherlands. There is a shortage of oats, red-clover, and grass seeds. Some of these seeds could have been supplied by the United States if a request had been made last fall; but it is too late to export seeds to Belgium for the current season. Belgian livestock, however, will not suffer, as there is ample pasturage for the number of animals left, for this year at least.

Efforts are being made to establish a vegetable-seed-growing industry in Belgium, with a view to making the country self-supporting in seed supplies. The normal seed requirements for the principal crops, as estimated by the Director of Horticulture, are as follows:

<u>Farm Seeds</u>			<u>Vegetable Seeds</u>		
<u>Tons</u>		<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>		<u>Tons</u>
Potatoes 225,000	Barley, winter 5,000	Garden peas . 1,500	Carrots . . . 30		
Oats . . . 45,000	Barley, spring 2,000	French beans, 1,000	Spinach . . . 30		
Rye . . . 37,000	Flax 4,000	Broad beans . . 100	Radishes . . 15		
Wheat . . . 25,000	Spelt 4,000	Onions 30			

The Situation in the Netherlands

The growing of vegetable and flower seeds in the Netherlands is a well-established industry, with important centers at Enkhuizen and Schmeeda. The principal kinds of vegetable seeds produced are cabbage, cauliflower, beet, turnip, radish, kohl-rabi, onion, parsnip, and spinach. All the leading growers have on hand large surpluses of cabbage, cauliflower, and beet seeds, together with substantial quantities of spinach and carrot seeds. They produce sufficient amounts of peas for domestic consumption. Owing to the large supplies on hand, decreased production of carrot, beet, and spinach seeds during this year is looked for.

Growers anticipate a gradual return of the seed business to normal conditions, though it is stated that prices probably will remain high for some time, owing to the increased labor and other costs.

An analysis of statistics of the exterior trade in seeds for the years 1913, 1914, and 1915 show that, while the exports of vegetable and flower seed were much greater than the imports, larger quantities of both clover and grass seeds were imported than were exported. In 1913 the total amount of vegetable, flower, clover, and grass seeds imported was 16,659,264 pounds, as against exports of 18,117,598 pounds.

The largest portion of the vegetable and flower seeds came from the Black Sea ports and Prussia in both 1914 and 1915, while by far the greater part of the exports in both years were made to the United States and Prussia, the United States alone taking 1,630,803 pounds in 1913 and more than double that quantity in 1914 (3,733,112 pounds). In 1915, the first full year of the war period, the imports of vegetable and flower seeds fell to less than half of the imports in 1914, but the exports increased to 6,756,607 pounds, two-thirds of which were sent to Prussia.

Clover seed was imported largely from France, the United Kingdom, and Germany in 1913 and 1914, while the exports went principally to the United States and Germany. In 1915 the United Kingdom and Prussia took the greater part of the exports. During these years the largest total volume of business was with Germany, and it is stated that most of the imports of clover seed by the Netherlands represents seeds in transit to Germany.

American red-clover seeds are imported by the Netherlands only when desired for green manuring, because the hairy character of the plant is regarded as undesirable for hay. Domestic seeds are preferred for hay crops and next in favor are seeds from England, northern France, and Bohemia. The annual requirements are estimated to be from 1,100,000 to 1,300,000 pounds. As the production amounts to only about 264,000 pounds, about 1,000,000 pounds must be imported.

Both the exports and imports of grass seeds are large, but this is mostly transit trade. During the period 1913 to 1915 over half the imports of grass seed came from the United Kingdom, and more than half the exports went to Prussia.

The domestic consumption of American grass seed is limited to small quantities of timothy and orchard grass. Rye grass of the Westerwoldsche variety, from seeds produced mostly in Groningen, is in high favor.

The Netherlands lie on the natural trade route to Germany and to the Rhine country. So far as the domestic consumption of field seeds is concerned, there probably never will be any great demand for seeds of American production, both because of the small size of the country and because other than American grasses and clovers are preferred by the farmers. As an

avenue for the trade with Germany, however, the Netherlands are important and the dealers there realize fully the opportunities that are open to them. Apparently well informed as to the seed supplies of Germany, they are of the opinion that stocks there are very low, and are looking forward to a large business as soon as trade is resumed. This is also the opinion of the dealers in France and Italy. -

Northern Italy

The seed trade in northern Italy is centered on field seeds. Red-clover and alfalfa seeds are produced largely in the area south of the Po and north of Rome, except on the west coast where olives and vineyards generally predominate. Bologna is the principal marketing and exporting center in Italy for red-clover and alfalfa seed.

The estimates of seedsmen indicate that from 10,000,000 to 14,000,000 pounds of red clover and twice that quantity for alfalfa seed represents a fair annual production. A crop of 16,000,000 pounds of red clover seed would be considered large. In 1918 the production fell to about 6,000,000 pounds. Most of this crop is raised on small areas by small farmers and is very poorly cleaned. The fields are generally weedy and contain much buck-horn as well as other weeds. The cleaning machinery used by some of the larger dealers is crude and inefficient, and they complain that the United States seed law fixed the standard of purity too high.

A great deal of the Italian red clover, and practically all of the export surplus of alfalfa seed finds its way into France, Austria, and Hungary. Before 1914, German firms bought freely. Italian dealers are now looking forward to a brisk trade as soon as peace is concluded, for they claim to have information that the Austro-Hungarian seed market is bare and they expect to supply a large part of this demand.

According to the records of the American Consul at Florence, there were cleared through his office 1,711,999 pounds of red-clover seed in 1916; 172,842 pounds in 1917; and 162,685 pounds in 1918.

Italian farmers make little use of cultivated grasses, and there is no opening there for American trade.

Denmark

The information regarding the seed situation in Denmark is taken from an address by Director Sorensen, of the Danish Seed Growers' Association. Mr. Sorensen stated that the present large supplies and the apparent over-production of many kinds of seeds had been caused by war conditions.

There is a large stock of mangel seed on hand. This may be kept for some time if necessary because of its good quality and strong germination. The area in mangel seed increased from 3,200 acres in 1912 to 4,900 in 1919. Therefore, in order to avoid prices so low that production would be unprofitable, Mr. Sorensen advised a 25 per cent reduction in acreage.

About 1,500 acres of rutabaga seed were cultivated before the war; the acreage increased to 5,500 in 1918, and to 11,300 in 1919. As Denmark used seed from only 1,500 acres, a very large exportable surplus (3,000,000 pounds) was available in 1918. Part of this was sold, but there remains still a very large surplus, with no prospects of selling it this season, except possibly to Germany.

The acreage devoted to growing turnip seed has increased from about 2,200 acres in 1912 to 7,000 acres last year, and 24,000 acres this year. For Danish consumption only about 750 acres are required. The prewar acreage of turnips was devoted almost entirely to the yellow-fleshed varieties, while this year some of the white-fleshed varieties of English turnips which are in so much demand for export are being grown. In 1918 the exportable surplus was 5,500,000 pounds.

About 1,500 acres of carrot seed were grown in 1917, while for the current year nearly 6,000 acres have been reserved. There is also a large stock of field-carrot seeds on hand, but not much of garden-carrot seeds. It is thought that it will be difficult to dispose of the surplus, and reduction of the acreage has been recommended. There are also surpluses of radish and spinach, but not a large surplus of white cabbage seed. Indications are that large areas are planted to cabbage for this season, so that a surplus is anticipated.

The area in clover for seed has increased from 1,650 to 3,500 acres, but as Denmark requires approximately 5,000 acres for home consumption, there is no danger of overproduction. The area of meadow fescue has been increased from 3,000 to nearly 5,000 acres, but owing to a large export demand, there also is no danger of overproduction. Not much rye grass was cultivated before the war, but this year there are grown for seed 5,900 acres of English, or common, rye grass and 2,300 acres of Italian rye grass. The war has encouraged the production of rye-grass seed and a lively demand is expected from Germany for the English variety. It is feared that there is danger of overproduction of Italian rye grass, because only about one-third can be used locally, and there is a limited demand for export.

Mr. Sorensen cautioned growers against exporting seed that is not good, as it will react on the market for Danish seed in the future.

MAXIMUM PRICES FOR FODDER IN POSEN, POLAND*

The Commissariat at the Supreme People's Council in Posen, Poland, announced on February 27 that all stocks of flax straw and hemp straw will be taken over by the Government. All stores are to be sold to the Provincial Fodder Office at the following maximum prices:

Flax straw, good	per 112 pounds . .	\$4.76
Flax straw, inferior	do . .	3.33
Hemp straw, good	do . .	7.61
Hemp straw, inferior	do . .	6.18

*See note on page 1 regarding conversions of foreign money.

COTTON SITUATION IN ENGLAND*

A review of the cotton situation in England published in the "Manchester Guardian" of March 29, 1919, has been received by the Department of State from the American Vice Consul at Manchester. The following excerpts will be of interest to the cotton industry of the United States:

"Times have been difficult for the Liverpool cotton market since the enemy submarines began to sink vessels at sight. The fiber became scarce, and, prices going up enormously, control was imposed to steady values and give everybody a chance of receiving a share of the cargoes that arrived. Since the armistice the movement of prices has been mainly downward, and importers have found it necessary to exercise extreme caution. We give below a table, taken from the returns of the Liverpool Cotton Association, showing how this year's turnover in actual cotton compares with that in the corresponding period of 1914, which may be regarded as a normal one, as no one contemplated then that a great war was near."

<u>1914</u>		<u>1919</u>	<u>1914</u>		<u>1919</u>
Bales sold		Bales sold	Bales sold		Bales sold
January 10 . .	75,680	4,020	February 21 . .	51,230	11,020
January 17 . . .	64,440	5,140	February 28 . .	49,910	8,990
January 24 . .	66,490	3,820	March 7 . .	51,370	10,200
January 31 . .	61,490	6,780	March 14 . .	48,580	19,330
February 7 . .	59,120	6,700	March 21 . .	58,410	18,600
February 14 .	47,480	7,590			

"Five years ago the Liverpool imports for the season (which then began in September) amounted to 3,450,000 bales, and the stock remaining was 1,193,680 bales. At the corresponding date this year the season's import (from August 1) was 1,646,766 bales, and the stock 497,740 bales.

"The figures show how deeply some Liverpool market operators have been affected by the prevalent dullness of the cotton trade. Yet the probability is that we shall see a recovery before very long. In the present state of the manufacturing industry, not only in Lancashire but on the Continent, an immediate restoration of business to the 1914 scale is beyond the wildest dreams. Things can not remain so, however. Now we have thousands of looms stopped and operatives seeking work in vain or getting only partial employment. That is because buyers think prices will fall still farther, and because there are great hindrances to business all over the world. The neutral countries adjacent to Germany are on short rations as regards supplies of cotton goods until the Allies think it safe to let them buy as they will; Turkey and the Balkan countries are not in a position to take Lancashire goods to the extent they used to do; India thinks it must wait longer before replenishing its stocks, and some countries find it necessary to restrict their imports, as we ourselves have had to do.

"The market has tried many remedies for war-time troubles, and, although some have been failures, the general effect has been beneficial. At one time the scarcity of cotton was such that under the old contract the cornering of the available supply would not have been impossible."

*See note on page 1 regarding conversions of foreign money.

The Board of Trade thereupon consulted the experts, and what is known as the emergency contract came into use. This was based upon good middling alone, and it put an end to the tendering of grades of all sorts against contracts. It terminates on the last trading day in April, and in present circumstances that will probably not be regretted. One of its great drawbacks this year, and especially in March, is the premium in near months which it has failed to prevent. On the 12th of March the official value of good middling for contract purposes was 18.95d. (\$0.384), - but the spot trading value was only 15.40d. (\$0.312), - so that there was a difference of 355 points. The disparity in January was 285 points on one day, and in February also it was pretty large.

"It is bad alike for the cotton market and for the manufacturing industry when differences of this kind exist, for they foster the feeling that cotton is going to be much cheaper in the near future, and therefore prevents all buying beyond the pressing needs of the moment. The new contract is based upon fully middling instead of middling, as in prewar times, and it has the merit of recognising the fact that in nine seasons out of ten fully middling is the most plentiful of all the grades. Its effect upon trade when that is the case can not fail to be beneficial.

"The fall in cotton prices has already been mentioned. At the time when the armistice was signed Texas good middling was selling at about 22.13d. (\$0.448) but in the current year there has been almost a continuous decline. In January the price got well below 12d. (\$0.365), and despite the fact that there was a recovery in the latter part of February, still lower prices have ruled in March. The trade has naturally kept its eye upon Manchester, but it has received little encouragement here, as sales have generally been hard to effect, and profit-margins have fallen to the vanishing point. In 32's cop twist, for example, there has been a fall this year from 37-1/8d. to 25-3/8d. (\$0.753 to 0.514) and in 60's Egyptian twist from 60-1/8d. to 40-1/8d. (\$1.22 to 0.814). The Control Board allows spinners and manufacturers to run all their machinery, the necessary cotton being now available, but the concession is useless, and thousands of operatives, including many who have returned from the army, are walking the streets unemployed."

TEXTILE SITUATION IN DUNDEE, SCOTLAND

A report on the textile situation in the Dundee, Scotland, district has been received by the Department of State from the American Consul at Dundee, under date of March 27, 1919. The following excerpts show the condition of the flax and jute market:

"FLAX AND TOW. -- The position at present is very quiet. Less of the raw material is going into use at the present time as spinners and manufacturers also are keeping down production till buyers show that they are in need of supplies on a larger scale. There are buyers quite under the delusion that they will be able to obtain cheaper supplies of linen materials. They fail to think of the possibilities of the future in regard to the replenishment of raw material stocks once the supplies on hand are exhausted. Meantime there is not much comfort to be derived from the affairs of Russia so far as flax and tow supplies are concerned. It has also to be remembered that since the price of the fiber was substantially raised to consumers they have been unable to secure any portion of that increase in their manufactured and spun commodities. Therefore unless they are to work at a very serious loss they must retain their present limits. The option of seriously curtailing or closing down is being forced upon all. To continue producing to stock is regarded a most disastrous policy. There are bound to be wants in linen commodities of some kind or another in excess of the present state of matters, and as much patience as possible is being exercised till buyers become active again.

"Highest, Lowest, and Current Prices per Ton for Flax

	:Bejetsky :Livonian-K:Pernau-D:Novgorod-7/3			
Highest, 1919 . . .	: \$328.00	: \$652.30	: \$775.20	: \$744.00
Lowest, 1919 . . .	: 328.00	: 652.30	: 775.20	: 744.00
Current prices . . .	: 328.00	: 652.30	: 775.20	: 744.00

"RAW JUTE. -- It is officially stated that the rate of freight on raw jute from Calcutta is \$21.60 per 50 cubic feet, which rate is operative from 1st of February to 30th April. The prohibition on the importation of jute has been removed, and there is no restriction on the purchase and importation of jute from India. Under those circumstances it is not proposed to continue the issuance of licenses for the purchase and importation of jute. The existing restrictions on trading in spot jute will be removed at the earliest possible moment. There is believed to be no foundation in the statement that no allotment space is to be made from Calcutta for the shipment of spinners' private jute before April. Instructions were apparently given to Calcutta to provide for Spinners' jute, Government jute, and Government gunnies in the order of priority named, of which instructions there has been no modification. Still there appear to be some in this market who have difficulty in reconciling the position according to their actual experience.

"The jute trade has been making an effort to discover the rate of freight on raw material from Calcutta to Dundee. There have been rates stated at variance with each other, and on the other hand the freight that spinners are being called upon to pay is another question. All freight rates on jute

are apparently fixed by the Calcutta Committee. The old freight measurement of 52 or 54 cubic feet for five bales of raw jute is not longer permitted. The new basis is 50 cubic feet only to the ton. The question of business is a very slow one. There is little being done in the fiber, though a bid may occasionally be noted for something of better quality, or jute that is calculated to give the least amount of trouble. As to the prices of the present they occupy quite a nominal position, as so little response is being made by spinners. They wait for better trade before seriously considering further supplies of the fiber, and whether they may still have long to wait is a matter that can not be presently determined.

"Highest, Lowest, and Current Prices per Ton for Jute

	First marks: Rupee price: 3 Months: Freight			
Highest, 1919 . . .	\$225.50	: Nominal	: \$0.36-7/8:	\$48.00
Lowest, 1919 . . .	120.00	: Nominal	: .36-7/8:	24.00
Current prices . . .	120.00	: Nominal	: .36-7/8:	24.00"

LIST OF IMPORTERS OF RAW COTTON AVAILABLE

Lists of importers of raw cotton at London and Manchester, England; at Bordeaux, Toulouse, Mirepeix, Castres, Marseilles, and Trouhans, France; Amsterdam, Netherlands; and at Palma de Mallorca, Spain, are now available, through the cooperation of the Department of State, and may be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Markets. A list of Swiss importers of raw cotton is also available. This list has been revised by the Swiss Raw Cotton Importation Syndicate.

Imports of Dairy Products and Meats and Meat Products into
New York City for Week Ended May 10

Imported from-	Cheese	Fresh or frozen beef	Canned or pickled beef
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
France	127,200	---	---
South America . .	371,644	---	2,227,040
	(Argentina)		
Miscellaneous . . .		397,500	---
Total	498,844	397,500	2,227,040

Exports of Dairy Products, Meats, and Meat
Products from New York City During
Week Ending May 10

DAIRY PRODUCTS*

Destination	Butter (pounds)	Oleo- margarine (pounds)	Cheese (pounds)	Condensed milk (lb.)	Ev'p'd milk (lb.)	Eggs (doz.)
Belgium	---	503,000	80,424	459,337	---	---
France	---	---	331,969	5,389,008	2,044,471	---
Italy	---	---	---	58,479	---	---
Scandinavia	44,942	---	235,169	245,800	32,500	---
United Kingdom	167,763	---	---	901,715	354,652	162,000
Near East	1,878	---	---	5,000	---	---
Central America	1,543	---	3,956	7,115	13,075	---
South America	---	144	5,497	12,236	---	---
West Indies	92,470	55,315	97,768	116,638	328,982	---
Africa	---	---	---	---	---	---
Miscellaneous	---	5,180	---	307,170	393,375	210
Total	308,595	569,139	754,783	7,502,598	3,167,055	162,210
Total since January 1	14,362,426	3,993,923	3,804,210	207,850,481	2,041,880	

MEATS AND MEAT PRODUCTS**

Commodity	Weekly exports Pounds	Total since Jan 1. Pounds
Beef:		
Fresh or frozen . . .	3,519,293	74,577,161
Canned and pickled . .	2,413,059	58,321,206
Lamb and mutton	---	434,670
Pork:		
Fresh or frozen . . .	559,983	25,689,460
Dry, salt and pickled	3,978,604	302,633,536
Bacon, hams, and shoulders	21,555,956	265,551,730
Sausage	329,179	5,390,115
Poultry and game	521,010	3,960,423
Lard and lard com- pounds	28,524,697	246,404,564

* Gross weights given. Manifests pending examination: Belgium 3; France 6; United Kingdom 6; South America 2; West Indies 4; Africa 1; Miscellaneous 10; total 32.

** Gross weights given. Manifests pending examination 32. Over 11,000,000 pounds of lard and 2,000,000 pounds of bacon included in the above report were shipped to the United Kingdom "for orders". Large shipments of bacon, ham, and shoulders were made to the Scandinavian countries during the past week.

Exports of Hay and Grain from New York City
During Week Ended May 10*

Destination	Mani- fests pending examina- tion	Wheat (bu.)	Flour (lb.)	Oats (bu.)	Rye (bu.)	Barley (lb.)	Malt (lb.)
Belgium	5	637,690	--	180,642	--	97,106	202,000
France	6	---	--	---	---	---	---
Netherlands	--	---	--	--	227,672	30,551	3,406,800
Italy	--	246,887	1,925,620	--	--	---	---
Scandinavia	--	---	--	156,155	--	70,000	4,526,550
United Kingdom	6	267,741	7,713,760	--	237,240	52,873	---
Central America	--	---	--	94	--	---	---
South America	2	---	856,214	300	--	---	1,910,720
West Indies	4	---	3,531,849	---	--	---	---
Miscellaneous	12	270,000	4,176,900	---	--	---	---
Total	38	1,422,318	18,304,343	402,172	464,912	250,530	10,046,070

*Gross weights given.

REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF MARKETS FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 22, 1919

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NOTE

IN THESE REPORTS ALL CONVERSIONS OF FOREIGN PRICES INTO U. S. MONEY HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE PAR VALUE OF THE FOREIGN MONEYS WITHOUT REGARD TO CURRENT EXCHANGE.

DOMESTIC PEANUT OIL IN COMPETITION WITH FOREIGN OILS

The United States has imported increasingly large quantities of peanut oil during the last few years. Up to the year 1916 the greater part of the imports came from Europe. In 1916, 1917, and 1918, however, China and Japan obtained the bulk of this trade. The following table gives the imports of peanut oil into the United States by countries for 1914 to 1918 and shows the extent of this trade:

Imports of Peanut Oil for the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 1914-1918

Imported from -	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons
Europe:					
France	572,865	374,311	234,324	175,757	....
Germany	367,003	40,253	...	...	....
Italy	120	3,187	...	...	....
Netherlands	193,092	204,712	102,352	17,896	1,500
Spain	2,503	1,042	2,923	1,562	270
Switzerland	3,050	...	...	...	....
United Kingdom . . . . .	...	...	...	...	....
(England)	3,939	344	42,506	1,546	....
North America:					
Canada . . . . .	...	...	...	...	12,537
Asia:					
China	100,816	114,263	276,831	689,774	3,508,709
East Indies, Dutch: . . . . .	...	...	60	14,512	43,392
Hongkong	66,760	84,649	108,391	220,586	91,354
Japan	100	65	707,675	1,304,555	4,530,394
All others	599	15	...	...	....
Total	1,337,136	852,905	1,475,123	3,026,183	8,257,756

Within five years the importation of peanut oil increased more than 500 per cent. In 1914 the value of the oil imported was \$918,614 and by 1918 it had reached a total value of \$7,311,824. More than half of the peanut oil imported in 1918 came from Japan.

In the United States the production of peanut oil is a comparatively new industry, starting just before the world war, owing to the steadily increasing demand for vegetable fats and oils. The rising price of butter and the consequent development of the margarine industry, together with the growth of diversified farming in the South, have resulted in a very large increase of the area in peanuts. The amount utilized for oil grew in proportion.

The growth of this industry is illustrated best by a comparison of the production of 1916, 1917, and the first six months of 1918. During 1916 the United States pressed 380,453 gallons of peanut oil, estimating 7 1/2 pounds to the gallon. During the next year this amount had increased 76 per cent, to 670,493 gallons. Sta-

tistics for the January-June period of 1918 show that 572,670 gallons of oil were produced, or nearly 87 per cent of the entire yield of the preceding 12 months.

The better grades of peanut oil, as in the case of olive oil, are cold-pressed, the nuts treated by this process retaining their characteristic flavor. However, the yield of oil is greater with the hot-pressing process, and heretofore the bulk of the available peanut oil produced in this country has been treated in this way.

American cold-pressed peanut oil is now on the market in large quantities, and is expected to prove a formidable competitor of both imported peanut and olive oils.

TRADE OPPORTUNITY IN BELGIUM

Purchase agency and consignments of foodstuffs, particularly dried foods, fruits, and canned fish at Antwerp. Ask for report 116089.

IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON CANNED VEGETABLES REMOVED BY UNITED KINGDOM

According to the British Board of Trade Journal of May 1, 1919, a general license has been issued permitting the importation of canned, bottled, dried, and preserved vegetables and pickles into Great Britain.

ITALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON RAW COTTON

The War Trade Board announced on May 5 that the High Commissioner for Italy had notified the Board of the following regulations governing the importation of cotton into Italy:

"The importation of cotton into Italy is still subject to import licenses, which are granted to Italian spinners upon their application to the Ministero Commercio Ufficio Cotoni, Rome, and in proportion with their stated requirements.

"Italian spinners before applying for import license have to obtain permission to purchase, so that all cotton shipped to Italy must appear to have been sold before it is loaded.

"Cotton may be sold c.i.f. Italy to Italian spinners; also through agents. It is, however, important that no shipment of unsold cotton be made, and American shippers before sending cotton to Italy should be convinced that said cotton was actually sold to the Italian consignee, and that it is not going instead to be sold upon its arrival in Italy, in order to avoid delay and inconveniences which will derive from the application of the existing regulations in Italy."

BORDEAUX AS A POSSIBLE MARKET FOR RAW COTTON

The American Vice Consul at Bordeaux, France, in a special report for the Bureau of Markets, obtained through the Department of State, dated April 10, 1919, made the following statement regarding Bordeaux as a market for raw cotton:

"Only small quantities of raw cotton have been imported in recent years, through Bordeaux, as shown by the following statistics procured from the Bordeaux customs authorities (all imported from the United States): 1913 - 80 tons; 1914 - none; 1915 - 5,571 tons; 1916 - 8,353 tons; 1917 - 13,344 tons.

"There used to be a quite important Cotton Exchange at Bordeaux, and at the present time there is a movement on foot to reestablish it. The question is being seriously studied by the French Chamber of Commerce of Bordeaux, the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, the Paris-Orleans Railway Company, and various business interests, with a view to supplying the demands of Alsace and Switzerland and the lesser demands of central and southern France. Bordeaux appears to be as well as or better situated than Le Havre, where the French cotton market now centers, to supply these demands. An encouraging canvass is now being made of the financiers and commission merchants experienced in the cotton trade. Later developments will be reported as fast as made accessible."

MAY SERIES OF LONDON WOOL AUCTIONS.

The American Consul General at London cabled to the Department of State, under dates of May 10, and 13 to 17, special reports for the Bureau of Markets on the sales of wool at the Government auctions of May 9, and 12 to 16.

On the 9th 8,308 bales were sold. All the better classes of merinos and crossbreds sold well, but shabby clips had a slow sale. New South Wales crossbreds brought from 32 to 40d. (\$0.64 to \$0.80). Victorial greasy merinos sold for 50 and 60d. (\$1 and \$1.20). Greasy combings from Natal brought 30.5d. (\$0.61) prior to the sale of the 9th.

The sales of the 12th included 3,851 bales from New South Wales, 1,289 from Queensland, 797 from Victoria, 467 from West Australia, 498 from New Zealand, and 1,220 bales from the Cape and Natal. The finer grades of merinos and crossbreds sold at practically the same prices as the previous week, but faulty and carbonizing wools were irregular, numerous lots being withdrawn. Australian merino, chiefly scoured pieces, locks, and broken, sold up to 52d. (\$1.04). A small quantity of greasy merino in the Victorial offerings brought from 51 to 58.5d. (\$1.02-\$1.17), while greasy crossbreds and pieces from Sydney and New Zealand were disposed of readily from 3.5 to 47.5d. (\$0.07-\$0.95). Greasy Cape wools sold as high as 32.5d. (\$0.65).

*See note on page 1 regarding conversion of foreign money.

On the 13th 8,100 bales were offered, 65d. (\$1.30) being paid for Brisbane scoured crossbreds, 31d. (\$0.62) for Sydney greasy crossbreds, 53.5d. (\$1.07) for Sydney scoured pieces, 64d. (\$1.28) for Melbourne scoured crossbreds. These prices reflect a 10 per cent rise over the last auction rates. A lot of poor wools were withdrawn, owing to insufficient bids.

On the 14th 9,400 bales of wool were offered for sale. This lot included a large proportion of medium to inferior wools from Sydney and New Zealand. These were in fair demand. The prices realized were 5 per cent and often 10 per cent below those of the previous auction. Nice Victorian greasy wools sold up to 58d. (\$1.16), while the best New Zealand clips brought 57d. (\$1.14).

The offerings on the 15th covered 6,900 bales, for which there was a brisk demand at values heretofore ruling. Faulty merinos received attention on Belgian account. Good line of 600 bales from New Zealand sold up to 65d. (\$1.30) for scoured merino pieces, 72d. (\$1.44) for half-bred fleeces, and 68d. (\$1.36) for quarter-bred fleeces. Cape greasy found ready buyers up to 34d. (\$0.68). There were disposed of 260 bales of free wool. The best of Cape Slipe merino combings brought 51d. (\$1.02). Slipe cross-bred qualities from the Falkland Islands sold from 24 to 36d. (\$0.48 to \$0.72).

On the 16th 7,700 bales of wool were offered. New Zealand scoured cross-bred wool marked "Otipua" sold to the home trade at prices varying from 57 to 70d. (\$1.14 to \$1.40) for half-breds, and from 48 to 66d. (\$0.96 to \$1.32) for pieces. Competition for low-grade Sydney wools was poor. Capes were taken steadily at unchanged prices.

After the shipment to Great Britain of 225,000 bales of wool per month from Australia and New Zealand for the six months March to September of the present year, there will remain available for shipment on September 30 a total of 793,626 bales. No part of the 1919-20 clip, which was estimated at 2,600,000 bales, is included in these figures.

MINIMUM PRICES FOR CEREALS ABOLISHED BY ARGENTINA

The minimum prices for cereals in Argentina, which were established on February 4, 1919, were abolished on May 5, according to a cablegram dated May 6, 1919, from the American Consul General at Buenos Aires to the Department of State.

DUTY REMOVED ON IMPORTS OF HORSES INTO BELGIUM

According to a cablegram from the American Trade Commissioner at Brussels to the Department of Commerce, under date of May 3, 1919, horses are admitted into Belgium free of duty. The importation of horse meat in any slaughtered form into that country is prohibited.

WOOL, HIDES, AND CATTLE MARKET IN URUGUAY*

The American Consul at Montevideo under date of March 8, 1919, forwarded a report to the Department of State on market conditions in Uruguay, taken from "Commerce and Industries." The following excerpts relate to the market situation regarding imports, wool, hides, and cattle:

"As respects importers, January brought a slight improvement after the almost complete paralyzation of November and December. Retailers were reported to be showing more interest, although the general uncertainty of market conditions and the still prevalent belief that prices would drop continued to prevent the laying in of large stocks.

"The Montevideo wool market also improved, and fair quantities of crosses were sold during January at prices ranging from 8.50 to 9.70 pesos per 10 kilos (\$0.3986 to \$0.4549 per pound). Prices for merino wool ranged from 12.50 to 13.50 pesos per 10 kilos (\$0.5836 to \$0.6332 per pound), the demand being largely confined to lots of superior quality. The wool market was still far from normal, and, as mentioned above, the shipment of only 2,091 tons of wool during January is well below the usual figures for the month.

"Except for temporary activity during the third week of January, the market for dry hides was slack throughout the month. The demand for salted hides was more active and the month closed with a fairly firm market. The demand for sheepskins continued to be slack.

"The average price paid by Montevideo packers for cattle during January was 13 centesimos per kilo of live weight (\$0.061 per pound)."

*See note on page 1 regarding conversions of foreign money.

WOOL, WHEAT, AND LIVESTOCK SITUATION IN AUSTRALIA

The following excerpts relating to the wool, wheat, and livestock situation in Australia are taken from the report of the American Consul at Sydney to the Department of State, dated April 2, 1919:

Wool

"The Commonwealth wool purchase will remain in force until June, 1920, at least, which assures 55 per cent advance over pre-war prices. On June 30, 1918, the estimated number of sheep in the Commonwealth of Australia was 82,533,010, and the total value of wool produced for the season 1917-18 was \$271,584,755, which comprises 2,488,862 bales. It is very difficult to obtain

the estimate of the wool on hand at the present time, but from a comparatively reliable unofficial source, I learned that there were about 2,000,000 bales in Australia up to March, 1919.

Wheat

"The price of wheat is not likely to decline at present, as there is now a better prospect for reaching the world's markets with Australian wheat through the liberation of tonnage. Already the sale of 50,000 tons of wheat has been made to Norway, and the 1919 crop will be far below the 1918 crop, the failure being due to the severe drought in many of the wheat-growing districts. On account of the low price of wheat, \$1.04 per bushel, less carriage to the embarking port, and owing to the fact that a considerable area of wheat land will be converted into grazing pastures, the wheat yield is not likely to increase soon. The crop in 1918-19 was estimated at 76,000,000 as compared with 114,865,514 bushels in 1917-18, and 152,420,189 in 1916-17, and 179,065,703 in 1915-16. The recent drought in the wheat-growing area is said to be the most severe for the past 30 years. So long as the army remains abroad, there will be a good demand for clothing, boots, shoes, and various foodstuffs.

Livestock in New South Wales

"The total number of horses in New South Wales in 1917 was 619,035, cattle 2,785,557, sheep 37,455,380; in 1918, horses 608,554, cattle 2,852,336, sheep 37,377,923. The figures indicate a decrease of 10,521 horses, and increase of 66,779 cattle, and a decrease of 77,457 sheep. The decrease in sheep is attributed almost entirely to the severe drought."

EXPORTS OF WHEAT, CORN, AND FLAXSEED FROM ARGENTINA

The exports of wheat from Argentina for the period from January 1 to April 4, 1919, amounted to 271,250 metric tons (2,204.6 pounds), of which amount 21,530 tons were destined to the United Kingdom and 121,357 tons to Continental European ports. The exportable surplus on April 4 is estimated to be 4,248,256 tons.

The exports of corn for the same period amounted to 314,411 metric tons, of which amount 7,377 tons were for the United States. The estimated amount of old stock still on hands April 4 for export is 1,113,567 metric tons.

The total exports of flaxseed (linseed) for the same period amounted to 56,329 metric tons, of which amount 39,095 metric tons were for the United States, leaving an exportable surplus estimated at 655,645 metric tons on April 4.

SCARCITY OF TOBACCO IN GERMANY

According to reports received by the Department of Commerce from the American Trade Commissioner at Stockholm, Sweden, under date of March 14, 1919, there is an absolute lack of raw materials for the tobacco industry of Germany, causing 6,000 cigar factories to close. The number of employes in the entire industry has been reduced from 220,000 in 1916 to 80,000 in 1919. At present the Netherlands can not be depended upon as formerly for tobacco, and during the transition period Germany will have to rely upon tobacco substitutes, which, however, can be used only to a limited extent in cigars.

The "Vossische Zeitung" of February 5, 1919, reported that the prices of tobacco reached unparalleled heights. Growers received \$0.259 per pound for round or pointed leaves and \$0.237 for the lowest leaves. Tobacco which before the war would have been almost unsalable, brought \$0.19 per pound. These retail prices of manufactured tobacco as given in a few advertisements quoted from various German papers reflect the high prices. Cigarettes ranged from \$5.71 to \$47.50 per 1,000 and cigars from \$0.1375 to \$0.15 each.

The following tables, taken from the Statistical Yearbook of Germany and the reports of the International Institute of Rome, show the production, imports, and exports of leaf tobacco in Germany from 1909 to 1913, inclusive. Statistics for the total exports only are available.

Production of Leaf Tobacco by Germany for the Years 1909 - 1913

1909	61,990,720 pounds	:	1912	85,483,200 pounds
1910	63,479,240 do	:	1913	56,934,140 do
1911	64,197,980 do	:		

Imports and Exports of Leaf Tobacco (in Pounds) by Germany
For the Years 1909 - 1913

Imported from -	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
Austria-Hungary	23,553,946	17,506,729	19,850,218	21,276,595	20,403,538
Brazil	8,752,262	8,088,677	7,740,350	6,743,871	5,672,146
China	2,145,075	2,220,032	2,491,198	3,170,214	3,163,601
Colombia	11,973,183	13,229,804	14,636,339	14,969,234	16,234,874
Cuba	1,020,730	.....	.....	2,502,221	3,478,859
Dominican Republic	1,547,629	959,001	1,133,164	1,082,459	817,907
Greece	1,578,494	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mexico . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Netherlands . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Netherlands East Indies	83,064,396	66,402,552	71,806,027	80,247,440	84,484,681
Russia . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	3,719,160	3,474,450
Turkey	13,434,832	14,056,530	14,548,155	16,024,761	18,029,219
United States	16,730,709	14,443,948	16,183,959	17,193,675	16,117,851
All others	4,287,971	6,979,764	10,564,444	4,377,544	4,356,084
Total imports	168,039,727	143,892,037	158,953,864	175,095,945	179,424,423
Total exports	1,900,365	379,191	771,610	959,001	956,756

BRITISH EMPIRE FAVORS PRODUCTS OF ITS COLONIES

Import duties favoring the colonies of Great Britain, especially Canada, are included in the new budget of the United Kingdom. The present duties on the imports of tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, chicory, and dried tobacco from British colonies will be reduced $16\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. The reduction on tea will take place on June 1; that on the other commodities will occur on September 1.

MAXIMUM PRICES OF EGGS, BEEF, AND BEEF FAT IN URUGUAY

The Department of State received from the American Consul at Montevideo, Uruguay, the following report dated January 7, 1919, on the maximum prices of eggs, beef, and beef fat in that country:

"EGGS.-- As a result of the seasonal falling off in the production of eggs, maximum prices were raised twice during December. A decree of December 10 placed them at \$0.2068 per dozen for sales to wholesalers, \$0.2275 to retailers, and \$0.2432 to the public. This represented an increase of about \$0.02 per dozen over November prices. A decree of December 31 further raised prices to \$0.2688, \$0.2895, and \$0.3102, respectively.

"BEEF.-- The Subsistence Board lowered maximum prices for beef in November and raised them again early in December, following the movement of the Montevideo stock market. In view of a decrease in the cost of beef on the hoof, a decree of December 31 again lowered prices by slightly under \$0.01 a pound. Present prices are for whole or half carcasses (to retail butchers); prime beef, \$0.1032 per pound; first grade, \$0.0938; second grade, \$0.0844. For hind-quarters alone an increase of \$0.0094 per pound is allowed, while the maximum price for forequarters alone is \$0.0094 below that for whole or half carcasses. It may be noted that, in spite of the recent decrease, meat prices are still about a cent a pound above those prevailing in May, 1918.

"BEEF FAT.-- A decree of December 16, 1918, established new prices for beef fat, again placing this commodity at the level fixed on May 7, 1918. Under the present scale of prices beef fat, purchased by the kilo, costs the consumer \$0.164 per pound. It will be recalled that a decree of August 27, 1918, had raised the prices fixed on May 7 by \$0.014 per pound in view of the higher price of cattle and containers. The reduction decreed on December 10 is explained by the diminished cost of tinplate."

THE PORK SITUATION IN THE NETHERLANDS

According to the "Handelsblad" of February 19, the Netherlands will have to depend largely on its own supply of pork, although large supplies are expected from the United States. The prices run as high as \$0.46 to \$0.55 per pound as the stocks of swine have been greatly reduced during the war.

In 1910 the number of pigs over 6 weeks old were 1,000,000. By August, 1917, the number had fallen to 300,000. Since then a further decrease has occurred, owing to the Government supplying fattening stuffs to breeders only. Other kinds of fodder were dear and of inferior quality, and, besides, the supply was not regular, so that farmers disposed of their stocks to avoid disappointment. However, now that the bread ration has been raised, and many owners of small pigs can reckon on crusts and waste bread for feeding purposes, the fattening of gruntings is on the increase; and, as large quantities of corn are expected, farmers are again turning their attention to breeding. Probably from May onwards a large number of pigs will come into the market, which, with six months intensive fattening, could be brought to 220 pounds dead weight, so that about November or December there should be plenty of pigs ready for the butcher. A 220-pound pig, however, yields little bacon, but it would meet with a good demand as fresh pork. The normal yearly consumption of pork is 220,000,000 pounds, or 4,230,000 pounds per week; in other words, 19,227 pigs of 220 pounds dead weight per week. Seeing that a sow's litter averages seven or eight, it would be necessary to have an average of only 3,000 to 3,500 sows farrowing per week.

COMPARATIVE PRICES OF CURED MEATS IN CHICAGO AND LONDON

Reference was made in "Reports on Foreign Markets" No. 5, May 1, 1919, page 10, indicating that the British Government has suspended its control of the prices and the distribution of ham, bacon, and lard, and removed all restrictions on the trade in these articles.

Owing to the rapid rise in the prices of cured meats in the United States during the war, the British control prices have frequently approximated the retail prices on the Chicago market. A comparison of the prices in the markets of Chicago and London are given below as of March 12, 1919, the latest date for which comparative data are available.

Comparative Retail Prices of Cured Meats in Chicago and London on
March 12, 1919.

Kind	Chicago	London
Fancy hams, whole	\$0.34 to 0.40	\$0.48
Fancy hams, sliced . . . . .	.50 to .65	.54
Standard hams, whole . . . . .	.32 to .33	.48
Standard hams, sliced . . . . .	.50 to .55	.54
Smoked ham butts and shanks . . .	.13 to .30	.24 to 0.28
Fancy bacon, whole . . . . .	.475 to .55	.48
Fancy bacon, sliced . . . . .	.50 to .65	.54
Standard bacon, whole . . . . .	.42 to .45	.48
Standard bacon, sliced . . . . .	.46 to .52	.54
Fresh New York shoulders, whole . .	.25	.32
Fresh New York shoulders, sliced . .	.28	...
Smoked picnics . . . . .	.24 to .28	.30
Dry sale bellies, whole . . . . .	.12 to .18	.28

BELGIAN SUGAR PRODUCERS FORM COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

The American Consul at Brussels reported to the Department of State, under date of April 4, 1919, that the principal sugar producers of Belgium have formed a cooperative association to group all the manufacturers of sugar and to work together for the building up of the sugar industry in Belgium. A capital of 60,000 francs (\$11,580) has been subscribed for expenses. The offices of the association are located at 21 Rue Hydraulique, Saint-Josse-ten-Noode, Brussels.

PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA

New Zealand is enjoying a period of unprecedented prosperity, particularly in agricultural pursuits, according to a report from the American Consul General at Auckland to the Department of State, under date of February 27, 1919. The Consul says that American breeders of sheep can find stud sheep and rams of very excellent quality in New Zealand, and that the small number exported have produced good results.

Owing to the friendly feeling of the people of New Zealand toward Americans, merchants are generally on the lookout for American business and agencies. The Consul stated that personal visits of representative business men from the United States to both New Zealand and Australia, should be well worth while as a means of promoting trade, for as soon as shipping facilities become normal, commerce with the United States should be good.

LACK OF REFRIGERATOR TONNAGE INTERFERES WITH ORIENTAL TRADE

The present lack of refrigerator facilities on Pacific Ocean steamships is cited as preventing an increased import trade with the Orient, particularly China, in many foodstuffs, such as eggs, poultry, butter, beef, etc., and a return cargo of American fruits, according to a report, dated March 26, 1919, from the American Consul at Darien, Manchuria, to the Department of State:

"The great resources of China as an egg- and poultry-producing country are well known; while beef from Shantung Province is famous through the East as a first-class product. With our increasing population, a large business in these articles could be developed if adequate refrigerating facilities were provided, which would in no way adversely effect our domestic products. And with the development of the wool industry in Mongolia, which is almost certain to be undertaken by Japan at no distant date, mutton would be added to the list.

"As a return cargo, our Pacific coast fruit growers' associations would doubtless be glad of an opportunity to extend their field of operation. I am sure there is a large field in China for oranges which now falls to Japan for lack of competition, grapes, stone fruits, and others. If this trade did not take up all the space available on the outward trip from America, doubtless other means of utilizing it could be found."

ECONOMIC DIRECTORY OF MEXICO TO BE PUBLISHED

The American Vice Consul at Mexico City forwarded to the Department of State, under date of April 16, 1919, the following translation of an article in the "Excelsior" of April 14 relative to a proposed economic directory of Mexico. The publication should be of value to exporters and importers in the United States.

"It is the intention of the Secretary of Industry and Commerce to commission eight special agents to conduct investigations throughout the different States of the Republic, as to products, manufacturers, the state of agriculture, and the cost of various articles of rational production. The purpose of these investigations will be to formulate and publish an economic directory of Mexico for the special use of merchants and foreign importers.

"For the last three months one commissioner has been conducting investigations in the State of Vera Cruz.

"It is the intention of the Government to place these directories in the hands of all Mexican consuls abroad, in order that they may properly inform foreign inquirers of the resources of the country, and thus stimulate the foreign market for Mexican products. Another advantage which is expected to result from this detailed inquiry into the agricultural resources of Mexico will be a more facile and adequate classification of exports for the convenience of the customs authorities."

MAXIMUM PRICES FOR CORN IN HUNGARY*

The maximum fixed prices of corn in Hungary for March, 1919, were as follows:

Ordinary, on cob	\$4.28 per 100 pounds
Ordinary shelled	5.00 per 100 pounds
Special on cob	4.39 per 100 pounds
Special shelled	5.75 per 100 pounds

To these prices are added bonuses for the producer amounting to \$2.37 per cwt., for ordinary shelled corn, and \$2.75 for special grades of corn.

*See note on page 1 regarding conversion of foreign money.

REBUILDING OF ALSACE-LORRRAINE HERDS NECESSARY

The cattle of Alsace-Lorraine have been reduced greatly during the war, according to a report of the French Academy of Agriculture, which was received by the Department of Commerce from the American Trade Commissioner at Paris, under date of April 22. The census of September, 1918, showed that there were 303,500 adult cattle in the two provinces, an estimated decrease of 40 per cent during the war.

The herds are composed mostly of the spotted races from the Alpine regions, the Simmenthal, Fribourgeoise, and Bernoise, of which more than 65 per cent are of the Simmenthal breed. In the Sarre basin there are numbers of Holstein cows.

In the Provinces of Alsace and Lorraine there are 32 syndicates of breeders. During the German occupation of the provinces, these syndicates were required to purchase their stock from German sources. After the conclusion of peace these purchases are expected to be made in France from the Montebeliard and Vosges races of cattle, the importation of which has been prohibited since 1900.

The cooperative bull association is a well-recognized institution in Alsace-Lorraine, each community maintaining one bull for every 80 cows or heifers. Formerly 25 per cent of the cost of the bulls was paid by the German Government. The investigator for the French Government recommended that the communal bull system be extended throughout France.

The breeding of Vosgian cattle, which was interrupted by the war, is to be resumed as soon as possible so that the cattle industry will regain its former flourishing condition.

GRAIN SUPPLY OF DENMARK

The American Commercial Attache at Copenhagen forwarded to the Department of Commerce, under date of April 9, 1919, the translation of an article on the supply of grain in Denmark, which was published in the "Berlingske Tidende" of April 9, as follows:

"To correct misleading reports in circulation in regard to the corn supply in the country, the Food Administration has made public the following information:

"There is no oversupply on hand, and very likely it will be quite necessary to continue the economy in the consumption of grain. The present grain budget is based upon the expectation of having 775,000 tons. Up to the first of March, only 703,000 tons had been obtained, and during March and April, about 5,000 tons are expected. The total will therefore be at least 67,000 tons short of expectations. The fact that Denmark has secured permission in England to receive for reshipment to Norway 100,000 tons is of great importance; in fact, a necessity. On the other hand, however, 50,000 tons necessarily had to be given over to cattle in order to improve the yield of milk, and as the swine have been given more than

their allotted share, it can be readily understood that we shall face a shortage. Moreover, when Schleswig is reunited with Denmark this summer, it will be necessary to send her 100,000 to 200,000 tons of grain for seed. For these reasons the shortage is certain, and energetic attempts have been made recently to secure sufficient tonnage to bring in grain from North and South America. It has been possible to arrange for the pressing needs, but the arrival of shipments is uncertain."

MEAT PRICES IN HUNGARY*

The following are the official maximum retail prices of lamb and veal which prevailed in Hungary during the past winter:

<u>Lamb</u>	<u>Retail price</u> <u>per pound</u>
Whole carcass, without hide, including feet, head, and offal,	\$ 1.65
Lamb without hide, head, feet, and offal	1.56
Forequarter	1.52
Hindquarter	2.09
Offal . . . . .	.31
Head, including tongue and brain . . . . .	.152
<u>Veal</u>	
Whole carcass, without hide and feet, with head and offal	\$ 2.02
Half a carcass, split lengthwise, or with head and offal, but without feet	2.05
Leg or shoulder, boned	3.64
Breast, kidneys, liver,	2.15
Neck, cheek, tongue	1.64
Offals (lights, heart, spleen, mixed) . . . . .	.91
Brains . . . . .	.354
Feet, cleaned . . . . .	.073
Feet, uncleaned . . . . .	.156

*See note on page 1 regarding conversion of foreign money.

IMPORTS OF DAIRY PRODUCTS, MEAT PRODUCTS, AND GRAIN INTO NEW YORK FOR WEEK ENDED MAY 17.

During the week which ended on May 17, 48,400 pounds of cheese were entered at the New York Custom House. During the same week 239,360 pounds of lard arrived from the West Indies. The arrivals of corn from Argentina for that week were given in "Reports on Foreign Markets" No. 8, page 9. The total quantity of corn entering the port of New York since Jan 1 was 39,633,337 pounds, or 712,312 bushels. A shipment of 234,320 bushels of corn arrived at New York from Argentina on May 21 for domestic consumption.

REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF MARKETS FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 29, 1919

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NOTE

IN THESE REPORTS ALL CONVERSIONS OF FOREIGN PRICES INTO U. S. MONEY HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE PAR VALUE OF THE FOREIGN MONEYS WITHOUT REGARD TO CURRENT EXCHANGE.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE COTTON-GROWING INDUSTRY IN CHOSEN

The first stage in the original program of the Japanese Government for the encouragement of the cotton-growing industry in Chosen (Korea) has been attained, according to the British Board of Trade Journal. The plan provided for an extension of the area under cultivation to 208,000 acres in 1918, but the total area under cultivation in 1918 amounted to 220,000 acres with a production of slightly over 100,000,000 pounds (200,000 bales of 500 pounds). It is the desire of the Government of Japan to make Chosen its principal source of supply for cotton, and thereby make the country independent of foreign supplies, in so far as possible. The six provinces of North and South Zenra, North and South Keisho, and North and South Chusie are considered suitable for the growing of American types of cotton. The further plan of the Government is to have under cultivation by the end of 1928 at least 250,000 acres of American cotton and 85,000 acres of Chosen cotton, a total of 335,000 acres. However, it is said that the possible area for the growing of cotton is 625,000 acres, and with improved methods of cultivation it is aimed to raise the annual production by 1928 to the following figures:

Kind	Raw Cotton		Ginned Cotton	
	Pounds	Bales	Pounds	Bales
American cotton	265,000,000	530,000	87,000,000	174,000
Chosen cotton	68,000,000	136,000	20,000,000	40,000
Total	333,000,000	666,000	107,000,000	214,000

The annual consumption of the Japanese cotton industry is estimated at about 1,000,000,000 pounds (2,000,000 bales) of raw cotton. The principal imports for the year 1916-17 were as follows:

	Pounds	Bales
From the United States	265,446,000	(530,892)
From India	582,800,000	(1,165,600)
From Chosen	100,000,000	(200,000)
Total	948,246,000	(1,896,492)

The exports of cotton and linters from the United States to Japan for the fiscal years of 1914 to 1918, inclusive, are given below:

	Bales		Bales
1914	336,908	1917	514,530
1915	406,668	1918	575,886
1916	483,983		

For the nine months from July 1, 1918, to March 31, 1919, the exports of cotton and linters by the United States amounted to 571,070 bales.

ORGANIZATION OF COTTON EXCHANGE AT ROTTERDAM

According to the "Pioneer" of Amsterdam, prior to the war the textile industry of the Netherlands obtained its supplies of raw cotton principally from Bremen, and also to a limited extent from Liverpool. It is said that for several years the Dutch spinners were dissatisfied with the Bremen market, owing to the delivery of cotton below the grades stipulated. In 1915 they requested the Rotterdam Chamber of Commerce to take steps to open a cotton exchange in Rotterdam after the war. This resulted in the organization of the Rotterdam Cotton Association on April 6, 1916.

Rotterdam is well located for this purpose, having cheap transportation on the Maas and the Rhine to Belgium, western and southern Germany, Alsace, Switzerland, and also to Austria and Italy, as compared with the rail rates from Bremen. Assurance has been given by the leading Rotterdam steamship lines of service between Galveston and New Orleans at rates not exceeding those named to Bremen.

The large dock companies also are supporting the scheme and have erected the first of a series of cotton warehouses, 460 feet long and 146 feet wide, comprising five compartments divided by fire-proof walls, with all openings protected by rolling-steel doors. The building is equipped with electric elevators for handling cotton from ship to warehouse and from warehouse to cars; also electrically operated devices for the transportation of bales to and from stocks to the sampling and classifying rooms. The warehouse has a total storage capacity of 32,500 bales.

Sufficient funds have been guaranteed by the merchants and bankers of Rotterdam to meet the expenses until the exchange becomes self-supporting. Regulations have been established at Rotterdam on the basis of the official cotton standards of the United States for "futures" and on basis of the Liverpool standards for dealings in "spots." The association has expressed the purpose to change the regulation on "spots" to the American standards as soon as adopted by another Continental market.

PRESENT CONDITION OF BELGIAN FOOD AND COTTON-SPINNING INDUSTRIES

According to a report, dated March 27, 1919, from the American Trade Commissioner at Brussels to the Department of Commerce, the Belgian food industries generally have been spared, though many replacements and repairs will have to be made owing to lack of upkeep.

The cotton spinning industry of Belgium, the center of which is at Ghent, comprises about 1,600,000 spindles and 250,000 twisting spindles. About 800,000 spindles are ready to begin operations as soon as raw cotton and the necessary equipment of belts, grease, oils, coal, etc. are available. About 400,000 other spindles will be ready in from three to four months, while it will require a much longer time to equip the remaining 400,000 spindles, since the copper, turbines, electric

motors, etc., which the Germans removed will have to be replaced. The weaving factories are about ready to begin operations again.

To sum up, the Belgian cotton industry will be ready to resume work as soon as American and Indian cotton can be obtained. The industry needs at once 24,000 bales of American cotton and the same quantity of Indian cotton.

BRITISH IMPORT LICENSES EXTENDED

According to a cablegram from the American Consul General at London to the Department of State, under date of May 16, 1919, the British Controller of Import Restrictions announced that general licenses due to expire on July 1 on the following commodities have been extended until September 1: Almonds; apples, bananas; bladders; casings; sausage skins; raw cocoa; coffee; fruit, canned, bottled, and preserved; hides, wet and dry; horns and hoofs; vegetable ivory; nuts used as fruits; onions; pimento; sugar cane; tobacco; and flour.

BULGARIA RESTRICTS IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE

According to a cablegram from the American Consul at Saloniki, Greece, to the Department of State, under date of May 14, 1919, the Bulgarian Government has issued an order that merchandise of prime necessity only will be allowed to enter Bulgaria, in order to prevent further depreciation of the currency.

INCREASED MAXIMUM PRICES FOR SCOTCH POTATOES

The American Consul at Dundee, Scotland, sent the following report to the Department of State, under date of March 26, 1919, giving new maximum prices for potatoes in Scotland:

"The Food Controller announces that the maximum grower's prices for ware potatoes in Scotland will be increased as from the 1st March as follows: For potatoes delivered during March, \$37.20 per ton, f.o.r.; for potatoes delivered during April, \$39.60 per ton, f.o.r.; for potatoes delivered during May and subsequent months \$42.00 per ton, f.o.r.

"In each case the price at which the Food Controller will purchase Scottish potatoes from growers for export to England and elsewhere will be \$3.60 per ton less than the maximum price. These increases correspond with the increases which have been granted to growers in England and Wales."

See also "Increase in Potato Prices for Scotland" in Reports on Foreign Markets No. 4, page 3.

RICE STANDARDS AT HONGKONG

Rice shipped from Hongkong to San Francisco hereafter will be graded according to the standards recently adopted by the San Francisco Rice Association and the Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong, as indicated in the following report of the American Consul General at Hongkong to the Department of State, under date of April 2, 1913:

"An agreement has finally been reached between the Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong through the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce and the San Francisco Rice Association, working in connection with the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, as to the standards of quality of rice in various grades shipped out of Hongkong and as to the matter of the settlement of claims growing out of the shipment of rice from members of the Hongkong organization to members of the San Francisco organization. It has finally been agreed that the following grades with percentages of broken grain be accepted and recognized by the two organizations, viz --

Sample No. 1	- No. 1	Siam Garden	-----	5 per cent broken.
Sample No. 2	- No. 1	Siam Straight	--	8 to 10 per cent broken.
Sample No. 3	- No. 2	Siam Straight	--	20 to 30 per cent broken.
Sample No. 4	- No. 1	Siam Usual	-----	15 to 20 per cent broken.
Sample No. 5	- No. 2	Siam Usual	-----	25 to 30 per cent broken.
Sample No. 6	- No. 1A	Saigon Long	----	15 to 20 per cent broken.
Sample No. 7	- No. 1A	Saigon Long	----	22 to 25 per cent broken.
Sample No. 8	- No. 1A	Saigon Round	---	15 to 20 per cent broken.
Sample No. 9	- No. 1A	Saigon Round	---	22 to 25 per cent broken.
Sample No. 10	- No. 2	Saigon Round	---	35 to 40 per cent broken.

"The matter of claims for weights, quality, and otherwise was the subject of long discussion and several meetings on the part of both organizations, but it has finally been arranged that the rice shall be shipped from Hongkong only after having been weighed bag by bag and a uniform amount and actual weight indicated for each bag; that it shall be inspected by a representative of the Exporters Association in Hongkong before shipment and shall be certified to by him as to quality, condition, and stowage and that this certificate shall be accepted as final by the buyer, except that in case of manifest error the matter will be reviewed by the association here on a statement from the San Francisco organization's committee through the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce that the claim appears to be well founded.

"The matter of weights has been given considerable trouble. It has been the custom in Hongkong to weigh a

certain number of bags out of a lot and average the whole; and the proposition of the Hongkong organization was that this be done to the extent of weighing five per cent of shipments of 10,000 bags or over and 10 per cent of shipments of less than 10,000 bags and averaging the whole. However, since much of the rice shipped from Hongkong to the United States is distributed by the importer in the original bags without reweighing, or in some cases even remarking, the American organization has insisted that the grain be shipped from Hongkong in bags uniform in weight and with detailed weights given by a public weighmaster whose certificate, however, would be accepted as final, except for possible error. Weighing, at this end is included in quotations, but weighing in case of claims in the United States is at account of buyer.

"It seems probable that the terms of this agreement will be taken as the basis of all rice business out of the port."

MOVEMENT OF GRAIN TO SEABOARD FOR EXPORT

North Atlantic Ports				
Condition	Quantity (bushels) for week ended -			
	May 14	May 7	April 30	
Received in elevator	6,814,013	7,307,905	7,952,878	
Clearances	9,638,132	8,241,393	8,356,273	
Total in elevator at				
end of the week ...	15,199,215	17,720,393	18,356,278	

South Atlantic and Gulf Ports				
Port	May 10	May 3	April 26	
New Orleans	2,102,413	1,923,105	2,229,639	
Port Arthur	Empty	Empty	57,221	
Texas City	do	do	Empty	
Galveston	673,704	593,822	535,284	
Total	2,776,117	2,516,927	2,922,144	

As indicating the export shipping situation, there is given below the total number of carloads of export freight on hand at the seaboard awaiting clearance, exclusive of bulk grain and coal:

Ports	Quantity (car loads) for week ended -			
	May 14	May 7	April 30	
At North Atlantic ports	30,710	31,439	31,567	
At South Atlantic and				
Gulf ports	9,937	10,216	10,552	
At Pacific coast ports	3,047	4,137	4,209	
Total	43,694	45,792	46,328	

LONDON COLONIAL WOOL SALES

A review of the London colonial wool sales is given in a report of the American Consul General to the Department of State, under date of April 4, 1919. The following excerpts are from this report:

"The sales of colonial wool were resumed in London on April 2, 1919, after a lapse of two years. After the auctions held in March, 1917, Government control became practically complete, and the trade was supplied direct by the Government at fixed schedules or prices, revised from time to time according to whether the wools were for Government or civilian uses. Australian and New Zealand clips were purchased at 55 per cent above the average prices of the 1913-14 season, first for the year 1917 and subsequently for the period of the war and one complete wool season afterwards, so that the Government became owners of all wool produced in Australasia until June 30, 1920. The first step in the direction of securing freedom for the wool trade was taken in January last when an announcement was made withdrawing all restrictions on the importation of South African wool and on dealings in tops made therefrom. The offers of the Government to acquire the South African clip had only secured to them the control of part of the 1917-18 clip, and in the following season the negotiations broke down entirely. Up to the end of 1917, moderate shipments on private account were received from South Africa and acquired by the Government here under a fixed schedule, but since then practically no free shipments came forward until March this year. Merino wool from South Africa is free from control, whereas the Government is the actual and prospective owners of several millions of bales of Australasian wool, the disposal of which presents a difficult problem until greater freedom of export is granted.

"French and Belgian commissions are to be allowed to buy about 10,000 bales between them (at the April auctions), and Italy will also be allotted a share.

"Two features introduced into these auctions of Government wools are the abolition of the "last-buyer" privilege and the acceptance of 1/4d. (\$0.005) per pound bids irrespective of prices.

"At the opening sitting (of the April auctions) very strong competition was revealed for all good wools evidently for immediate and pressing requirements.

"It is interesting to compare the market with the last prewar sale in July, 1914. It has opened about 125 per cent above the level then current on merinos and fine crossbreds; 100 per cent on coarse grades."

STOCKS OF WOOL ON HAND IN THE UNITED KINGDOM ON APRIL 1.

Reference was made in Reports on Foreign Markets No. 7 to the stocks of wool on hand April 1, 1919, in the United Kingdom. The British Board of Trade Journal gives a revised estimates as follows:

Merino	60,637,000 pounds
Crossbred	111,885,000 pounds
East India	45,808,000 pounds
Total	218,320,000 pounds

This estimate is given in terms of clean, scoured wools.

SHEEP AND WOOL SITUATION IN URUGUAY

As is shown by the following report, the sheep industry of Uruguay is recovering from the inroads of disease of the past five years, an increase of more than 8,000,000 sheep having taken place since 1916. The data also show that there is a considerable amount of wool on hand. The report was obtained for the Tariff Commission by the Department of State from the American Consul at Montevideo, under date of March 7, 1919.

Sheep Raising in Uruguay

"The agricultural census of 1916, which is the latest official record available, gives the number of sheep in Uruguay as 11,472,852. This is a great decrease from the official figures of 1908, which placed the number of wool-bearing animals in Uruguay at 26,286,296. At the beginning of the year 1919, no official reports being obtainable, one can base calculations as to the number of sheep now in the country solely upon conservative estimates of those persons who are in close touch with the industry. Such estimates place the number of sheep in Uruguay at the beginning of January, 1919, at between 18 and 19 million. It will be noted that this is an increase of approximately 8,000,000 over the figures given in the census of 1916. This increase should not be attributed to any great increased endeavor due to the war, but is rather the natural increase in a favorably dry season, with the resulting absence of the diseases which have so reduced the flocks of Uruguay during the past five years.

"With respect to the breeds of sheep to be found in Uruguay, the census for 1916 gives the following information: Pure blooded: Merinos, 278,279; Lincoln and similar white-faced, 419,175; Shropshire and similar black-faced, 35,409; total pure blooded, 732,863. Crossbreeds (mestizos): Merinos, 4,084,733; Lincoln and similar white-faced, 6,303,866; Shropshire and similar black-faced, 292,074; total crossbreeds, 10,680,673. Native (criollos) 59,316; total of all kinds, 11,472,852. At the present time, however, due to changed breeding tendencies, it

would appear that approximately 25 per cent of all sheep in Uruguay are of Rambouillet stock, 65 per cent are of mixed Rambouillet and Lincoln breeding, while the remaining 15 per cent are Romney Marsh, Shropshire, and Corriedale. In the recent exhibition of sheep, held at Montevideo on January 21, 1919, some little interest was displayed in Hampshires. In 1916 the official records showed 3,585 sheep registered as of pedigree and pure lineage. This number included, in addition to the varieties already mentioned, 35 sheep classified as Devons.

"Conditions in Uruguay, with respect to economic consideration, are very favorable for sheep raising. Land values and land rents are low in comparison with similar grazing lands in the United States. Rents for land suited to sheep raising average 2.00 pesos (\$2.06) per hectarea (2.75 acres), with slight variations due to railroad facilities, etc. Labor is extremely cheap and plentiful in the rural districts, and no set scale of wages is in force. In fact, the chief difficulty in the sheep-raising industry in Uruguay is that of disease.

"Disease among the sheep of Uruguay may be chiefly attributed to the tendency of the land to produce an excessively luxuriant pasture in times of damp weather. Such conditions make the sheep of Uruguay an easy prey to worm and the foot disease. Scab has also appeared at intervals of several years. During the breeding season just completed, very favorable weather prevailed, and no outbreak of any of the above-mentioned diseases was noted. The best proof of the present healthy condition of the flocks is found in the increase of almost 8,000,000 sheep over and above the 1916 figures during the last two breeding seasons. The greater part of this increase has taken place during the 1918 season when the normal flock increase, which is from 20 to 25 per cent, was probably exceeded."

Wool Situation in Uruguay

"Production of wool in Uruguay during the season beginning October 1, 1917, and ending September 30, 1918, amounted to 95,000 bales (each bale weighing 440 to 450 kilos, or 882 to 992 pounds). Of this amount 85,000 bales were exported from the ports of Montevideo, Paysandu, Salto, and Mercedes. A balance of about 10,000 bales remained in the country. About 5,000 bales were used for domestic consumption, leaving a balance of some 5,000 bales which is included in the statistics for 1918-19.

"The clip of wool for 1918-19 is conservatively estimated to have produced 100,000 bales. Of this amount 20,000 bales had been exported prior to February 28, 1919. This leaves 80,000 bales to be considered as stocks on hand. Of this last-named amount, 40,000 bales are as yet in the hands of the producers and have not been delivered. It should also be remembered that various German houses have in their hands 21,000 bales of wool. This represents the accumulation of the past four years.

"The prices of wool in Uruguay for the past five years are shown in the table given below. These prices are quoted in American money, c.f.

Boston or New York, insurance not included, in cents per pound.

Comparative Prices per Pound of Uruguay Wool, 1915-1919

Kind of wool :	1914-15	:	1915-16	:	1916-17	:	1917-18	:	1918-19
Crossbred .. :	\$0.35-0.40:		\$0.55-0.60:		\$0.65-0.68:		\$0.78-0.82:		\$0.65-0.70
Merino .....	.38- .40:		.60- .62:		.70- .75:		.68- .73:		.75- .80

"The statistics given for the season of 1914-15 are merely inserted to show the effect of the war on wool prices in Uruguay. For the five years immediately preceding the war the average price of crossbred wool was \$0.25 to \$0.28 per pound. Merinos in a like period averaged \$0.28 to \$0.30 per pound. From these figures an adequate conception of the effect of the war on the wool industry of Uruguay may be obtained.

"To estimate the cost of producing wool is extremely difficult. Due to the great variation in capital accounts, one must first obtain an approximate land valuation. Basing our calculations upon an average land rent of 2.00 pesos (\$2.06) per annum per hectarea (2.75 acres), and considering that an average hectarea is capable of supporting three sheep for one year, we find the average cost of producing wool to be 0.32 pesos (\$0.329) per kilo (\$0.15 per pound).

"Any prediction as to the future tendencies of the market brings us face to face with the fact that future prices will depend, in large measure, upon the buying policy of the United States. Advices have been received from London that the prices of wool for April 1, 1919, delivery in that city have been reduced 10 per cent. A majority of exporters seem to be of the opinion that Europe will furnish little market for wool during the next year and that the attitude and policy of the United States will continue to be the ruling factor in the market."

DEMAND FOR AMERICAN CATTLE IN ITALY

At the present time the cattle industry of Italy is in a critical state, owing not only to losses entailed by the war, amounting to 20 per cent of the prewar numbers, but more recently to an epidemic of the foot-and-mouth disease which has been especially destructive about Milan. As will be seen from the accompanying table, the greater part of the prewar imports of cattle came from France, Switzerland, Serbia, and Roumania. The numbers of livestock in these countries, with the possible exception of Switzerland, are too low to be counted on by Italy as a source of supply.

Imports of Cattle by Italy, 1911 to 1915

Imported from --	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Argentina	16,238	4,285	33	....	....
Austria-Hungary ..	3,108	3,840	5,078	1,788	....
France	94,311	28,901	4,358	10,249	70
Netherlands	779	346	81	101	....
Roumania	7,060	323	75	....	....
Serbia	12,996	5,023	216	1,241	....
Switzerland	12,821	9,205	1,664	16,378	6,320
Tunis	3,327	3,735	136	23	2,057
Turkey	1,740	...	106	....	....
All others	1,931	237	114	95	....
Total	154,311	55,895	11,861	29,875	8,447

Heretofore there has been a prejudice in Italy against American cattle, and practically none have been imported. But now there appears to be a change of sentiment. The American Consul General at Genoa reported to the Department of State, under date of April 5, 1919, that "such importation is already under consideration."

A strong appeal was made by the *Bulletino dell'Agricoltura* of Milan of April 11, 1919, for the purchase of American cattle, particularly the Holstein and Jersey breeds. It is asserted by this writer that Holstein and Jersey cattle are the equal in every respect to the Swiss and Italian breeds, that they are suited to the Italian soil and climate, and that the United States Shipping Board is able to transport the animals needed for the reconstruction of the livestock industry of Italy. There are no quarantine regulations governing the importations of animals into Italy, and the duty is small, amounting to only \$7.72 per head for horses and less than that amount for cattle.

According to a report of the American Consul at Venice, information is desired as to the different types of cattle which would be fitted for producing meat or milk and also particulars from which the suitability of American breeds for Italy could be judged. There seems to be lack of information as to the characteristics of the various American breeds. It would therefore be desirable to furnish the American consuls with publications on American cattle for distribution to those interested. American exporters who may desire to communicate direct with Italian breeders may obtain their names and addresses from the Bureau of Markets, Washington D. C.

BRITISH ARMY HORSES BRING GOOD PRICES*

(London Times, May 2, 1919)

"The sales of surplus Army horses and mules in the United Kingdom were directed by the War Office to cease for the time being at the end of last week. No resumption is likely until such time as a new census of animals in Army possession has been made, and requirements, present and future, have been ascertained.

"Since the signing of the Armistice, up to April 26th, 88,872

*See note on page 1 regarding conversion of foreign money.

horses have passed from military into civilian ownership for £3,320,028 8s. 8d. (\$16,156,918.44), representing an average for each horse of £37 7s. 11d. (\$181.97). A native prejudice against mules is shown by the fact that only 2,220 have been sold for £42,555 (\$207,093.90), at an average price of £19 3s. 4d. (\$92.46).

"The prices of horses have more than exceeded what, at the time, were regarded as fair and reasonable expectations. The severe shortage in the United Kingdom at the time of the Armistice is no doubt the chief cause of the long-sustained keen demand, especially for heavy draught horses; but a contributory factor is also the excellent condition and comparative soundness of the great majority of the horses on being demobilized for sale.

"The following numbers and average prices show the progress of the sales in the old theatres of war:

			L-	s.	d.	
France	.....	103,139 horses	: 39	17	0	(\$193.93)
Do	.....	39,508 mules	: 30	6	2	(147.49)
Egypt	.....	2,134 horses	: 32	8	8	(157.83)
Do	.....	6,833 mules	: 33	7	10	(162.49)
Do	.....	21,406 camels	: 22	0	0	(107.06)
Do	.....	10,836 donkeys	: 9	5	0	(45.01)
Saloniki	....	4,601 horses	: 43	3	0	(209.99)
Do	.....	16,052 mules	: 41	4	5	(200.59)
Mesopotamia	..	2,738 horses	: 16	13	8	(81.19)
Do	.....	1,629 mules	: 45	7	4	(220.77)

"The sales in Italy, North America, and East Africa have been practically concluded.

"Until further notice, the only sales of Army horses in this country will be those specially marked horses which officers and men were privileged to have sold at special centres, in order that they could attend and bid for their old favourites."

VARYING PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS IN SPAIN

The following fixed retail prices for various foodstuffs were established by the food boards of the several provinces during March, 1919:

Commodity	Unit	Almeria	Granada	Huesca	Zamora
Bread	Pound	.....	.....	\$0.0437	.....
Flour:					
Corn	do	\$0.0437	.....	.....	.....
Wheat	do	0595	.....	.....	.....
Rice	do	.065-.074	\$0.079-.096	.....	.....
Beans	do	.07	.079-.13	.....	.....
Chick-peas	do	.0656	.079-.13	.....	.....
Potatoes	do	.022	.....	.....	.....
Eggs	Dozen	.....	.....	.368	.29
Milk:					
Cow's	Quart	.....	.....	.09	.071
Goat's	do	.....	.....	.....	.071
Olive oil	do	.....	.298	.291	.....
Bacon	Pound	.....	.....	.303	.....
Mutton	do	.....	.....	.35	.....
Veal	do	.....	.....	.35	.....
Pork	do	.....	.32	.....	.....
Sugar	do	.153	.....	.....	.17

PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS IN MADRID IN 1914 AND 1919*

The Chamber of Commerce at Madrid, Spain, is authority for the following data, giving a comparison of the prices of various foodstuffs in Madrid in 1914 and 1919:

Comparative Prices of Foodstuffs in Madrid in
1914 and 1919

Commodity	Unit	Wholesale		Retail	
		1914	1919	1914	1919
Olive oil	Quart	\$0.175	\$0.24	\$0.178	\$0.33
Eggs	Dozen	.23	.534	.25	.58
Codfish	Pound	.098	.256	.114	.28
Bacon	do	.153	.377	.175	.438
Pork sausage ...	do	.368	.544	.394	.57
Cheese, La					
Mancha	do	.21	.377	.263	.44
Sugar	do	.072	.149	.079	.158
White beans	do	.05	.083	.06	.087
Chick-peas	do	.063	.094	.07	.114
Pickled sardines	do	.074	.153	.087	.175

*See note on page 1 regarding conversions of foreign money.

SALE OF BACON, HAM, AND REFINED LARD BY THE
BRITISH MINISTRY OF FOOD

The British Food Controller announced, effective March 31, 1919, the sale of bacon, hams, and refined lard imported by the Ministry at the following prices:

Prices per Pound of Bacon, Hams, and Refined Lard

Cuts	Canadian	Class A	Class B	Class C
Wiltshires	\$0.38	\$0.37	\$0.37	\$0.36
Cumberlands .....	.37	.37	.36	.36
Dublins .....	...	.30	.30	.30
Long clears .....	...	.38	.38	.37
Rib in backs .....	...	.37	.36	.36
English cut bellies	...	.38	.38	.38
Picnics .....	...	.27	.27	.27
Hams, A/C .....	...	.36	.35	.35
Hams, L/C .....	.36	.36	.36	.36
Hams, skinless .....	...	.36	.36	.36
Refined lard .....	.33	.33	...	...

All prices are at the docks or at the store and are for goods in the original package. The hams and bacon are green -- that is, not smoked, dried, or processed in any way. All second brands are to be sold at \$0.007 per pound less than the above prices.

By the bacon and ham order the Food Controller has fixed maximum retail prices for bacon and hams sold in Great Britain on and after March 31, 1919, as follows:

Pale, dried, or smoked, not to exceed\$0.57 per pound.
 Other than pale, dried, or smoked, not to exceed .54 per pound.
 Ayrshire rolls58 per pound.
 Smoked bacon (skinned off)61 per pound.

FIXED PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS IN ITALY*

The Food Minister of Italy has announced the following fixed maximum prices of various foodstuffs in Milan and Rome, effective March 1, 1919:

Fixed Maximum Prices of Various Foodstuffs In Milan and Rome, Effective March 1, 1919

MILAN

Commodity	Unit	Price	Commodity	Unit	Price
Wheat flour	Pound	\$0.061	Horse flesh	Pound	\$0.57
Corn flour	do	.055	Butter,	do	.315
Corn meal	do	.044	Butter, blend	do	.745
Bread:			Cheese	do	.41-.54
Small loaves	do	.068	Lard	do	.70
Large loaves	do	.056	Sugar	do	.41
Rice	do	.09	Saccharin	do	.615
Beef:			Coffee:		
Forequarter	do	.69	Raw	do	1.10-1.27
Hindquarter	do	.755	Roasted	do	1.31-1.63
Mutton and goat			Codfish, dry,	do	.46-.55
flesh:			Tunny fish		
Forequarter	do	.526	(in oil)	do	1.185
Hindquarter	do	.615	Milk	Quart	.146
Pork	do	1.23	Skim milk	do	.11
Ham	do	2.63	Eggs	Dozen	.67

ROME

Olive oil	Quart	\$0.376	Cheese, Parmesan	Pound	.526
Lard:			Figs, dried	do	.175
Italian	Pound	.728	Apples	do	.175
American	do	.675	Tunny fish	do	.965

*See note on page 1 regarding conversions of foreign money.

The rationing of olive oil in Rome has ceased, but the maximum price is to be maintained.

POULTRY AND EGG MARKET IN CANADA AND ENGLAND

The statement was made in Reports on Foreign Markets No. 8, page 9, that Canada had exhausted its exportable surplus of poultry. This is confirmed in the weekly report of the Poultry Division of the Dominion Department of Agriculture for May 13. The following excerpt is taken from this report:

"Dealers say no matter how much they offer for fresh killed and live poultry, their receipts do not increase. The country is said to be cleaned up of old fowl and chickens, and farmers refuse to part with laying fowl. No further surplus for export."

The same Canadian report stated that ocean space for eggs was limited, but that the situation was improving gradually. Inquiries and orders for eggs for export are being received in large numbers in Canada. Some orders have been booked for delivery in September and October at \$0.55 and \$0.56 per dozen f.o.b. steamer, Montreal.

LONDON WOOL AUCTIONS OF MAY 20 AND 22

According to cablegrams from the American Consul General at London, under dates of May 21-23 to the Department of State, obtained for the Bureau of Markets, at the Government auction of Colonial Wools held at London on May 20th 7,300 bales were offered. The best South Australian grease combings brought as high as 52.5d. (\$1.05). The entire market was good. There was a sharp demand for medium greasy crossbreds from New Zealand at better prices.

On the 22d 8,300 bales were cleared. The extreme prices paid at the earlier sales for the finer grades of greasy wools were less frequent, but the advance was still noticeable among merino and crossbred clips. Choice scoured combings of merinos from Queensland sold from 50 to 73d. (\$1.00 to \$1.46). Scoured crossbreds brought 60d. (\$1.20). Greasy merino combings from Adelaide sold as high as 50d. (\$1.00). Greasy crossbreds of New Zealand qualities realized 42 and 47½d. (\$0.84 and \$0.95); 150 bales of Australian slipe crossbred free wool brought 42 and 45½d. (\$0.84 and \$0.91).

SUPPLY OF SMYRNA FIGS EXHAUSTED

According to a recent cablegram from the American Trade Commissioner at Smyrna, obtained for the Bureau of Markets by the Department of Commerce, the fig crop in Smyrna for 1918 was about 16,500 tons and is practically exhausted now. About one-fifth was consumed locally, and the balance was sent chiefly to Russian Black Sea ports and to the Central Powers. An excellent crop for 1919 is indicated by the heavy rains this spring. No figs have been imported from Turkey by the United States since 1915.

REVISED REGULATIONS ISSUED BY WAR TRADE BOARD

The War Trade Board has issued amended regulations for in-transit shipments through the territory or via any port of the United States. These amended regulations became effective on May 15, 1919, and rescinds War Trade Board Ruling 714, issued April 29, 1919, and extends the scope of Special Export License RAC-42. Full details of the revised regulations are given in War Trade Board Ruling 737.

Special Export License RAC-77, granted through the Customs Service, which became effective on April 29, 1919, under War Trade Board Ruling 716, has been extended and reissued as of May 15, 1919.

Revised regulations governing the export of commodities to Norway were issued on May 15, 1919, as War Trade Board Ruling 740.

Copies of these revised regulations may be obtained from the War Trade Board, Washington, D. C.

IMPORTS OF MEAT AND GRAIN INTO NEW YORK FOR WEEK ENDED MAY 24

Small shipments of beef have been arriving from Panama consigned to the Zone Supply Officer, New York. During the week ending on May 24 the imports of beef amounted to 93,600 pounds.

Two shipments of corn from Argentina arrived at New York last week. One consignment of 254,320 bushels was noted in Reports on Foreign Markets No. 9. The second shipment amounted to 71,533 bags, containing approximately 132 pounds to the bag, or 168,731 bushels. The total quantity of corn imported during the week, therefore, was 423,051 bushels. Total since January 1, 1919: 1,134,364 bushels.

Exports of Meats and Meat Products from
New York City During Week Ended May 24*

(Compiled by Bureau of Markets at New York Custom House)

Commodity	Weekly exports:	Total since Jan. 1
Beef:	Pounds	Pounds
Fresh or frozen	8,432,986	83,822,022
Canned and pickled	1,695,335	62,409,402
Lamb and mutton	---	462,167
Pork:		
Fresh or frozen	708,652	27,578,461
Dry, salt, and pickled	1,556,565	304,393,782
Bacon, hams, and shoulders	33,421,405	314,819,974
Sausage	242,478	7,242,435
Poultry and game	173,860	5,448,127
Lard and lard compounds ..	45,640,435	316,373,790

*Gross weights given. Manifests pending examination 34.

All except a few hundred thousand pounds of the fresh or frozen beef listed was exported to Italy within the past 10 days. Almost 2,000,000 pounds of bacon was shipped to Scandinavia. Very large quantities of lard and hams were consigned to England "for orders", one vessel alone

carrying a cargo of 12,000,000 pounds of lard. Over 13,000,000 pounds of lard went forward to Belgium on the 23d.

Exports of Hay, Grain, and Dairy Products from New York
City During Week Ended May 24

(Compiled by Bureau of Markets at New York Custom House)

HAY AND GRAINS*

Destination	Wheat (bu.)	Flour (bbl.)	Oats (bu.)	Barley (bu.)	Malt (lb.)	Rye (bu.)	Hay (lb.)
Belgium . . .	354,666	---	2,415,203	---	---	---	---
France . . .	---	13	---	---	886,800	---	---
Italy	1,108,816	47,472	---	---	---	92,000	---
Scandinavia:	---	4,111	---	---	2,219,437	---	---
United Kingdom . .	335,900	47,712	---	---	---	---	---
Central America . .	---	100	250	---	---	---	---
South America . .	---	6,591	2,700	34	218,274	---	13,735
West Indies:	50	8,526	9,053	---	---	---	26,625
Netherlands:	---	---	---	210,027	---	---	---
Spain	132,193	---	---	---	---	---	---
Africa	---	1,678	---	---	---	---	---
Misc.	158,362	248,624	70,133	64,000	159,974	1,040,871	---
Total	2,089,987	364,827	2,497,339	274,061	3,484,485	1,132,871	40,360

DAIRY PRODUCTS**

Destination	Butter (Pounds)	Oleo- margarine (Pounds)	Cheese (Pounds)	Condensed Milk (lb.)	Ev'p'd Milk (lb.)	Eggs (Doz.)
Belgium	---	---	---	---	---	---
France	50,020	---	78,862	3,954,401	2,034,100	---
Italy	---	---	---	---	50,800	---
Scandinavia . .	267,220	258,021	705,590	536,880	687,700	---
United Kingdom:	---	---	---	9,030,195	3,268,565	653,460
Central America	798	---	145	40,816	66,219	---
South America:	2,326	1,500	3,280	461,966	40,835	---
West Indies . .	67,783	29,862	87,257	610,378	20,722	---
Africa	6,350	---	9,612	---	---	---
Miscellaneous:	---	---	3,000	4,852,071	1,544,225	---
Total	394,497	289,383	887,746	19,486,707	7,713,166	653,460
Total since	---	---	---	---	---	---
January 1 . . .	15,325,720	9,325,841	4,902,187	253,653,930	2,935,670	---

*Gross weights given. Manifests pending examination: Belgium 2; France 5; United Kingdom 9; Central America 1; South America 1; West Indies 5; Africa 1; Miscellaneous 9; Total 33.

**Gross weights given. Manifests pending examination: Belgium 2; France 5; Italy 2; United Kingdom 7; Central America 1; South America 1; West Indies 5; Africa 1; Miscellaneous 10; Total 34.

Export shipments of butter in the past week were principally to Sweden, while large quantities of cheese were distributed among Norway, Denmark, and Sweden. The miscellaneous totals of condensed and evaporated milk were consigned to England or Gibraltar "for orders".

